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TORONTO • WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009 metronews

Canada pg 8

Obama thanks Canada for role in Afghanistan

Changes irk Facebook enthusiasts

NETWORKING Tens of thousands of Facebook users are protesting new policies that they say grant the social-networking site the ability to control their information forever, even after they cancel their accounts.

Facebook's new terms of use largely went unnoticed until the popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed out the changes Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riding the **Recession**

Looking for ways to save money and ride out the economic storm? For the next six weeks, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

• Workology

How to avoid household tensions in the era of pink slips, pg 34

• This week

Food — Local meals for a steal

Style — Looking on the bright side of fashion during New York Fashion Week

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty walk past a train yesterday on their way to making a GO Transit funding announcement in Toronto. **Delayed budget, pg. 4.**

Funds on track

$500M slated for GO Transit

Ottawa and Ontario will spend up to $500 million to upgrade GO Transit as part of a federal strategy to combat the global economic slowdown, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said yesterday.

Harper touted the investment as part of a larger "action plan" to revive the country's troubled economy.

"Southern Ontario and the GTA have been hit hard by the slowdown, but it is still a bastion of our nation's economy and will remain so when the recovery takes hold," Harper said.

"That's why it is critical to keep the economy of this region thriving, to keep people working and to keep them moving."

The campaign-style stop seemed designed to win over disheartened Ontarians drowning in a sea of job losses and bad economic news.

The $500-million investment, split between the federal and Ontario governments, will fund more than a dozen projects to improve the provincially-run commuter system, Harper said.

But nearly half the money hasn't yet been allocated for specific projects, Premier Dalton McGuinty acknowledged.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Parking

• About $175 million will be spent on creating about 6,800 new parking spaces at 12 GO Transit stations, while $75 million will go towards rail upgrades at a junction in Hamilton, Premier Dalton McGuinty said.

Woman charged with murder at baby shower

A seven-months pregnant Mississauga woman has been charged with second-degree murder after a man was fatally stabbed at her baby shower.

The woman's common-law husband has also been arrested, accused of being an accessory after the fact to murder.

Investigators were initially told the victim's wound was self-inflicted. A 9-1-1 call came in to Peel police at 3:19 p.m. Monday. When officers arrived two minutes later they found Jay Kumar Atha bleeding from the chest. Atha, 21, later died in hospital.

Barbara Lanthier, 28, is charged with second-degree murder and Faisal Malik, 38, is charged with accessory after the fact to murder. Both appeared in court yesterday morning and remain in custody.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Mother and son hit by TTC bus
A four-year-old boy and his mother were struck by a TTC bus yesterday morning in Toronto's Downsview area. Police were called at about 9 a.m. to the incident near Allen Road, Const. Wendy Drummond said. The two victims were taken to hospital with minor injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Local

Suspicious blazes probed

The provincial fire marshal has taken over the investigation into two separate "suspicious" blazes set in Brampton yesterday morning. The first fire started at around 3 a.m. in two homes under construction in the area of Laurelcrest and Vodden streets. Then, at 3:30 a.m., another fire broke out at a housing development in the area of Airport Road and Treeline Boulevard. No one was injured in either blaze. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Comment
Andrew Cohen gives Metro readers the lowdown on Barack Obama's visit in his Home and Abroad column.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canadian astronaut thrilled about six months in space, not so thrilled about cramped leg room at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Harper confident that General Motors will stay in Canada at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 1 6 7; **Ontario Pick 4:** 7 4 2 8
Encore: 5171700
Daily Keno: 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 20, 23, 24, 27, 30, 33, 34, 38, 42, 50, 52, 63, 64, 66 and 70
These results are not official.

Police seek 10 men in brutal club beating

CRIME Toronto police are looking for up to 10 men who beat a 27-year-old man outside a downtown club early yesterday morning.

The victim was leaving the Rockwood Night Club near King and John streets at around 2:40 a.m. yesterday when he was approached by eight to 10 men.

One suspect pulled out a glass bottle and struck the victim on the head, knocking him to the ground.

Suspects

- The other suspects are described as Asian males.

The victim was then slashed in the abdomen and punched several times before the suspects fled in two cars. He was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

One suspect is described as white, 19 to 22 years old, thin build, braces on his teeth, short brown hair, wearing a black Abercrombie Fitch T-shirt with white writing, and blue jeans. A second suspect is described as Asian, 19 to 25 years old, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-9, thin build, 160 pounds, wearing a red Yankees baseball cap and a black leather jacket. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Katie Sutherland is shown in this undated family handout photo. In a world's first, Canadian doctors kept Katie alive using an external artificial lung before they could find a transplant donor.

A breath of fresh air

The wheezing began on the soccer field. Then it got harder for Katie Sutherland, 16, to walk to school. She thought it was because she was out of shape. The doctors told her family she had only months to live.

Her death sentence was a form of pulmonary hypertension, a rare lung disorder that constricts vein and arteries within the lungs and forces the heart to work harder. The only thing that could save her was a double lung transplant.

"The doctors told my parents there was nothing else they could do but wait for the right donor," recalls Sutherland. With a long wait list, and a slim chance of finding a match so quickly, the family prepared for the worst.

"The doctors told my parents there was nothing else they could do."
Katie Sutherland

In a matter of days, Sutherland's lungs began to give out. She needed oxygen to breathe, gasped for every breath and her heart started failing.

In a three-hour emergency surgery in the middle of the night last July, a 10-member team attached Sutherland's heart to an external artificial lung to keep her alive until a donor could be found.

This was the first time anywhere the technique had been used on a child. A donor became available and a successful double lung transplant was performed on Aug. 2, 2008. And just last week, she began playing indoor soccer again. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TTC lacking constables on staff: GM

SAFETY Toronto has proportionately fewer than half the transit cops of Montreal or Vancouver, but the head of the TTC wants to reassure the public that the system here is safe, despite Friday's frightening incident.

The TTC has a ratio of about one constable per 4.5 million riders, compared with one constable per two million riders in Montreal, and one per 1.5 million riders in Vancouver.

But no number of staff could prevent all incidents, such as Friday's near tragedy, when two teens were pushed onto the tracks in front of an oncoming train, said TTC chief general manager Gary Webster.

"We do not have enough presence — not yet. But we're working on it."

Webster pointed out that TTC crime is not increasing faster than its proportional rider growth. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Charges

- Adenir De Oliveira, 47, has been charged with three counts of attempted murder following Friday's incident.
- He will appear before a mental health court Friday.

TORONTO HYDRO PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM UPDATE

Toronto Hydro-Electric System Limited is making progress in remediating handwells and streetlights. As of Friday, February 13, 2009 an estimated 55% of the handwell and streetlight assets had been inspected. Inspections and remediation are taking place during the daytime. Mobile voltage sweeps, and repairs if necessary, are continuing at night when streetlights are energized.

As reported earlier, the accelerated action is being taken after a report that some children received a minor shock. Toronto Hydro immediately deployed all non-emergency crews to its contact voltage program. All available resources have been assigned to find and remediate equipment that may pose a safety hazard.

Once handwells have been remediated the handwell cover is sprayed red. The red is temporary and serves as a signal to other Toronto Hydro employees working in the same area that the handwell has been inspected. The red paint should only last a few days to a week depending on weather conditions. Toronto Hydro reminds customers that it is always a good idea to stay clear of electrical equipment.

Toronto Hydro urges anyone who is concerned about contact voltage in their neighbourhood to stay clear of the area and immediately call our **dedicated hotline at 416-222-3773**.

For more information, please visit **www.torontohydro.com/voltageinspection**

toronto hydro electric system

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Dog saved from Humber River
A two-year-old German Sheppard was trapped after running onto the frozen Humber River yesterday afternoon. Marine unit rescuers in protective gear were able to pull the pet from the river in about five minutes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Budget to be delayed

Opposition calls to table an early budget in hopes of stimulating the economy and saving jobs were cast aside yesterday by Premier Dalton McGuinty, who said getting the financial plan right is more important than rushing it out the door.

Even though Finance Minister Dwight Duncan had said his budget could be ready by the last week of February or early March, the government is now looking at late March.

"For us to take a few more days to better understand the world that we're going into, I think is the right thing to do."
Dalton McGuinty

"There's so many pieces that remain in motion with respect to the global economy, how that's impacting on us here in Canada and in Ontario," McGuinty said after announcing a $500-million investment in transit along with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"So for us to take a few more days to better understand the world that we're going into, I think is the right thing to do."

The deficit, he added, "will be significant because we want to participate in a global, concerted effort to stimulate the economy."

The government came under fierce opposition attack yesterday for its handling of the economy, as Opposition Leader Bob Runciman accused the Liberals of mismanaging the file for failing to bring down an early budget.

McGuinty's recent flip-flops and "erratic behaviour" show he's not up to the task, he said.

Duncan defended the budget timeline, saying the "numbers are changing as we speak."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Toronto police supervisor surveys the scene yesterday of a crash that landed a police officer in a cruiser and a woman driving a station wagon on Queen Street East in hospital.

Cruiser crash lands 2 in hospital

TRAFFIC A speeding police car answering an emergency call careened off a station wagon and then crashed into a bank entrance yesterday, losing a front wheel and back windshield in the process.

"Both drivers are in hospital," said Toronto police Insp. Anil Anand, who described the injuries as minor because of seatbelts and air bags.

Both cars were travelling westbound on Queen Street East toward Woodbine Avenue at around 7:20 a.m., Anand said.

Damage

- Both vehicles were heavily damaged, with the cruiser getting the worst of it.

The officer declined further details but a friend of the female station wagon driver pieced together the scene. The friend, who asked to remain unnamed, said he understood the cruiser to be passing the station wagon in the oncoming lane. At Woodbine, the station wagon began a left turn.

The cruiser hit the station wagon, sending it crashing into a traffic light post on the driver's side and causing the cruiser to leap the southwest curb of the intersection in front of the HSBC bank.

Anand said he had no information on whether the cruiser's siren or flashing lights were on at the time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Abandoned pets rise with more layoffs

ANIMALS With each factory that closed, each round of layoffs at the General Motors plant, more animals came in.

Many were simply abandoned, left in empty apartments after the tenants had been evicted. But in other cases — one or two a month — it was clear they had been surrendered for financial reasons, their owners unable to pay for food or veterinary bills, says Ruby Richards, manager of the Humane Society of Durham Region in Oshawa, a region hard hit by the manufacturing sector's steady decline.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

COURT Brampton Justice of the Peace John Farnum has been exonerated of any misconduct, including being drunk on the job. Farnum, 65, is expected to return to his duties soon. He has been paid to stay home for the past year until the allegations were investigated and heard by the Justices of the Peace Review Council. He has been a JP since 1988.

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Good Samaritan taken to hospital after being hit by car

A Good Samaritan was taken to hospital in critical condition yesterday when she was hit by a vehicle after stopping to help a female pedestrian struck by another car on Midland Avenue. The first victim was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

School cops a deterrent

Decrease in violence reported

In what is being called a first sign of success, the 22 public high schools assigned a police officer are reporting a drop in suspensions and criminal charges.

In the first semester of the 2007-08 school year, the schools — which are scattered throughout the city — had a total of 1,353 suspensions. Last fall, that fell to 1,122, a 17 per cent difference.

Criminal charges were down 16 per cent. Violent incidents, however, were up 15 per cent because of two major incidents at one unidentified school where about 15 students were suspended.

If that school is removed from the statistics, the remaining 21 schools saw a 52 per cent decrease in reported violence.

"What we are hearing so far is that it's been successful and we're quite pleased with what we are seeing," said Ted Libera, administrator for safe and caring schools with the Toronto District School Board.

"I think the data show there have been some positive changes in place," he said, adding it's just a five-month snapshot but the schools will continue to be tracked for some time.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Program

- The school resource officer program placed 30 officers in public and Catholic high schools around Toronto, where they are stationed to serve the school and others in the neighbourhood.
- The idea is for police to work with teens, run programs and build positive relationships.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The province announced yesterday that about 13,000 York students can have their loans extended.

York students given loan reprieve

About 13,000 York University students can have their student loans extended to help deal with the costs of the 12-week-long strike — the longest ever at an English-speaking university in Canada, the provincial government announced yesterday.

About 50,000 students were shut out of classes until striking contract professors were legislated back to work by the Ontario government. Classes resumed on Feb. 2. To make up for lost time, the semester has been extended by four weeks.

York students can also stay longer in residence if needed, and York is starting a fundraising drive to create a $5-million bursary fund for those who need help due to the extension of the school year, said Training, Colleges and Universities Minister John Milloy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Greatest need

- Those with the greatest need — about 5,300 of the 13,000 students — won't have to pay the extra money back, said Training, Colleges and Universities Minister John Milloy.

'Responsible budgeting' urged

COUNCIL City hall is being run like a "Wall Street bank," a meeting on Toronto's proposed $8.7-billion budget was told yesterday. In the first opportunity most councillors had to pick the budget apart, Coun. Peter Milczyn urged "disciplined and responsible budgeting."

Among his concerns: Plans to hire about 1,000 new staff (330 to cover expanded TTC service, plus others working in welfare, long-term care and new courtrooms), and the $8.5 million set aside for merit pay for non-unionized city hall staff — about the same paid out last year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

WEATHER Think of it as Environment Canada's threat advisory system. A special weather statement — not to be confused with a watch — has been issued for southern Ontario. Toronto, according to the statement, is to receive as much as five centimetres of snow starting around 7 a.m. today. Rain is expected to follow this afternoon.

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HIV-murder case delayed

The oft-delayed case of a man charged with murder in two HIV-related deaths has been further postponed until Friday in Hamilton. Johnson Aziga has pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree murder and 11 counts of aggravated sexual assault. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Plains re-enactment turfed

A young volunteer soldier stands at attention as descendants of Montcalm and Wolfe, left, who fought 240 years ago on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City, inspect the troops. Quebec sovereigntists claimed victory over Ottawa yesterday after a re-enactment of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham was turfed from playing out on its original battlefield — or anywhere else in the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military must leave war zone in 2011: Ignatieff

AFGHANISTAN Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says Canada should not extend its military mission in Afghanistan even if U.S. President Barack Obama requests it.

Ignatieff says he intends to press that point to Obama when he meets him in Ottawa tomorrow.

There have been indications Obama will ask Prime Minister Stephen Harper to keep Canadian troops in the war-torn country.

Ignatieff, who was in Quebec City yesterday to meet with Mayor Regis Labeaume, says there must be a revision in the strategy in Afghanistan where Taliban and other insurgents have battled NATO forces for six years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thank you, Canada: Obama

U.S. president shows appreciation for military's efforts in Afghanistan

Obama's Visit

U.S. President Barack Obama is expressing his gratitude for Canada's contribution to the war in Afghanistan — and sending strong signals his approach to the problem will be rooted in diplomacy and development, rather than force.

In an interview with the CBC, Obama says he's convinced the problems of Afghanistan, including the spread of extremism, cannot be solved by "military means alone."

Obama says he wants to discuss a "comprehensive strategy" for the Afghan conflict when he arrives tomorrow in Ottawa to meet with Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama gets ready to board the Marine One helicopter at the White House yesterday. Obama's plane is scheduled to arrive in Ottawa at roughly 10:30 a.m. tomorrow.

He says the situation in Afghanistan is "deteriorating" and that any strategy would need political support in both Canada and the U.S.

Obama is also offering his country's "heartfelt thanks" to the military families in Canada that have borne the brunt of the conflict.

He says the U.S. is in the midst of a strategic review of its Afghan strategy and will "very soon" reveal details of its planned approach to the military part of the mission.

"The Canadian contribution has been extraordinary, and for all the families that have borne the burden in Canada, we all have a heartfelt thanks," Obama said in the interview, scheduled to air later today.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Green plan pales compared to U.S.

ENVIRONMENT Canada will be left in a cloud of green dust by the U.S. on climate change and other environmental issues if it doesn't make changes, environmental groups are warning.

The organizations are trying to raise the profile of environmental issues in advance of U.S. President Barack Obama's visit. They say Obama's plans to stiffen regulations on a variety of things are about to make the Tory government's own look lacking.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ECONOMY The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives says Stephen Harper is trying to ride Barack Obama's coat-tails out of the recession, relying too much on U.S. fiscal stimulus measures to help Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former Saskatchewan chief seeking top aboriginal post
A former chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is formally launching his run at the top aboriginal job in the country. Perry Bellegarde wants to become head of the Assembly of First Nations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

4-year-old saw mother killed

SHOOTING Police have identified the victim of Metro Vancouver's latest fatal shooting as a 23-year-old woman whose four-year-old son witnessed her death in a hail of bullets as he sat in the back of a Cadillac.

Cpl. Dale Carr of the RCMP's Integrated Homicide Investigation Team said yesterday that Nicole Marie Alemy was driving her husband's vehicle when she was gunned down in Surrey, B.C., on Monday morning.

Carr said Alemy is from nearby White Rock, but wouldn't comment on whether her husband is known to police.

A visibly shaken Carr told a news conference that the couple's little boy is now in the care of the Children's Ministry "for his own safety."

He wouldn't say why the child wasn't turned over to his father.

Alemy's death was the second targeted shooting in the Vancouver area in 12 hours and the latest in a string of more than a dozen shootings, six of them fatal, in the last two weeks.

Federal Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan was to meet yesterday with Vancouver-area mayors, police officials and the families of two innocent victims who were gunned down execution style in 2007, along with four others with gang affiliations.

The B.C. government said last week it will boost police numbers and provide more prosecutors to deal with the serious gangs-and-guns issue.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An RCMP officer walks by a car containing the body of a woman who was fatally shot in Surrey, B.C., on Monday. The 23-year-old woman, who had her four-year-old son in the back seat at the time, is the latest to die in a string of shootings in the Vancouver area.

Al-Jazeera wants to broadcast in Canada

The English-language arm of the controversial channel Al-Jazeera is seeking permission to broadcast in Canada, and if it wins approval the station would also open a Canadian news bureau, the managing director of Al-Jazeera English said yesterday.

Tony Burman said the all-news channel, based in Doha, Qatar, hopes to be up and running here by the fall. He credited the channel's recent coverage of the Israeli-Gaza war, which included exclusive material from Gaza, with significantly raising its North American profile and fostering a demand for international news.

"That was an important breakthrough for us and a lot of people I think really took notice," Burman, former editor-in-chief of the CBC, said of the Gaza coverage.

"We know that from our website, there's (been) an incredible jump (in traffic). A lot of Americans — and Canadians, for that matter — are now aware of Al-Jazeera English when perhaps two months ago they weren't."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Distinct channel

- Al-Jazeera English is distinct from the Arabic channel that drew controversy for its news coverage in the days following 9/11.

14 accused of rigging bids

CONTRACTS The Competition Bureau has accused 14 people and seven Ottawa-area companies of rigging bids for $67 million in federal government information technology contracts.

The bureau says it has found evidence that several IT services companies co-ordinated bids in an illegal scheme to divvy up contracts and exclude competitors.

The contracts were for services provided to the Canada Border Services Agency, Public Works and Government Services Canada and Transport Canada.

Among those companies alleged to have participated in the bid rigging were TPG Technology Consulting Ltd., Donna Cona Inc., and Brainhunter Inc. The charges have not been proven in court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

OLYMPICS Prince Edward Island is the latest province to kick in funding for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games. Premier Robert Ghiz has announced the province will contribute about $500,000 toward Canadian athletes and the Olympics. Ghiz says Islanders are particularly excited about the Olympic torch making its way across the province on Nov. 21 as part of the historic relay.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Snowmobiler's body found

Police in the northern Ontario community of Temiskaming have recovered the body of a snowmobiler who unsuccessfully tried to cross open water. Ontario Provincial Police searched the mouth of the Montreal River at Mowat Landing near New Liskeard after the man went through the ice early Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top court mulls libel debate

Canadian libel law needs to be reinterpreted to offer better protection to journalists, even when they get some of their facts wrong, the country's top court has been told.

Richard Dearden, counsel for the Ottawa Citizen newspaper, contended yesterday that traditional common law principles put too much emphasis on protecting individual reputation, to the detriment of free speech and the public's right to know.

"The pendulum has swung too far over to the reputation side (and) it has to swing back."
Richard Dearden

"The pendulum has swung too far over to the reputation side (and) it has to swing back," Dearden declared as he opened a Supreme Court of Canada case that could redefine the rules for defamation suits.

The new test, he said, should be whether a story is in the public interest and whether a news outlet makes a good-faith effort to ensure its information is correct.

But Ronald Caza, the lawyer for a former OPP constable who won a $100,000 damage award against the Citizen, urged the court to reject the media pleas. "How can we win by lowering the standard of the news we're going to get in this country?" said Caza.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Guild seeks place for Canadians on the Net

CULTURE The Internet is growing so quickly and uncontrollably that time is running out for regulators to ensure Canadian content remains a significant player in the new media, cultural groups said yesterday.

The warning came as the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission opened public hearings revisiting the decade-old question of whether the Internet should be regulated, and if so, how.

"What we simply want is a place for Canadian stories," said Richard Hardacre of the actors guild ACTRA. "We know if we don't get it right now, tomorrow will be too late."

The actors and the Directors Guild of Canada made separate recommendations calling for the creation of a $100-million fund for the production of Canadian content for new media.

The fund would be paid for by the corporations that provide Internet and wireless services in Canada, such as Rogers Communications Inc. and other cable companies, and phone companies such as BCE Inc. and Telus Corp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An important change in how organ and tissue donation decisions are registered in Ontario.

Have you registered a decision of "No" or "Undecided" regarding organ and tissue donation?

Then, you should know that, Ontario has changed the way donation decisions are recorded. Now, only a "Yes" to organ and tissue donation will be collected and stored in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) database. At the appropriate time, this information will be accessed by the Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN), Ontario's provincial organ donation agency.

If you have previously registered "NO" or "UNDECIDED", this decision will no longer be used or disclosed to TGLN, as of July 1, 2009.

Therefore, it is important that you tell your family or loved ones of your decision, to ensure that your wishes are properly conveyed to your health care team at the relevant time.

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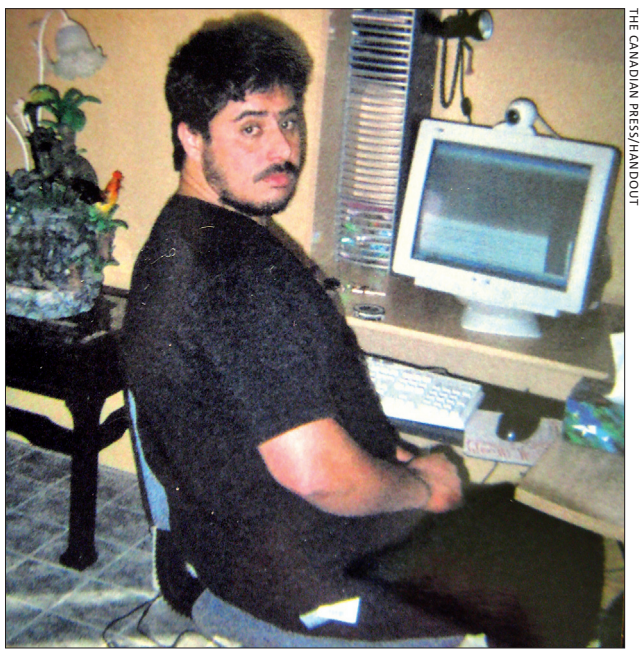

THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

A handout photo of Said Namouh, who is accused of disseminating terrorist propaganda in Montreal. Namouh is facing four terrorism-related charges.

U.S. expert testifies in trial of alleged Quebec terrorist

TERRORISM A U.S.-based terrorism expert is the Crown's final witness against a Quebec man facing terrorism charges.

Rita Katz is co-founder of the SITE Intelligence Group, which tracks global terror networks, intercepts messages and provides advance warnings of attacks to private clients.

Said Namouh, 36, is facing four terrorism-related charges including conspiracy, participating in a terrorist act, facilitating such an act and committing extortion for a terrorist group.

Katz testified yesterday in a Montreal courtroom about the importance of the Internet in furthering the causes of terrorist groups.

The Crown contends Namouh is a member of the Global Islamic Media Front, an organization involved in propaganda and jihad recruitment and described as a media tool for al-Qaida.

Namouh, who has permanent residence status in Canada, has been detained since his arrest in September 2007 in Maskinonge, a small town northeast of Montreal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

BUDGET DEFICIT B.C. Finance Minister Colin Hansen said British Columbians can expect two years of rough economic times that include a $495-million deficit for the fiscal year 2009 and $245 million for 2010.

NOVA SCOTIA Sealers have killed 200 grey seals on a tiny island off Cape Breton a week after their buyer unexpectedly backed out of taking any pelts, putting the controversial hunt in limbo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

49-year-old charged after 9-1-1 prank calls
Winnipeg police have charged a 49-year-old man with two counts of mischief after someone sent them on several wild goose chases around the city. Police say they received numerous 9-1-1 calls in the last year from a man reporting false emergencies. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Broken hearts and drained bank accounts

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
Metro Canada

When a recently divorced Edmonton woman met a gorgeous younger man on an Internet dating site, an overwhelming sense of flattery veiled any suspicion that he was capable of breaking her heart and draining her bank account.

The shamed victim, who does not want to be identified, joins a list of vulnerable Alberta women conned out of almost $300,000 in the past few months by Nigerian scammers trolling popular dating websites.

"They know how to cover their tracks."
Economic crimes Det. Mark Johnson

"They don't tell you bad stuff — they tell you good stuff, and that's what everyone wants to hear," she said yesterday.

The man she fell for claimed to be a wealthy American businessman, dealing in antiques in Nigeria. She ended up sending him thousands, after he claimed his son was in a terrible car accident, underwent three surgeries, and eventually died.

She said that while, at first, she refused to give him money, his insistence and promises they'd meet in person was enough to mask any possible foreshadowing.

Though police have received a number of complaints there's little hope of catching the crooks or recovering any cash.

"They know how to cover their tracks," said EPS economic crimes Det. Mark Johnson, who added it's certain her money was collected in Nigeria.

Nova Scotia gives out $175M to manufacturing

PAUL MCLEOD
Metro Canada

INDUSTRY Nova Scotia unveiled another infrastructure announcement yesterday, pledging $175 million for loans to companies through its Industrial Expansion Fund.

The provincial Tories have said they would rely heavily on infrastructure spending to help drag manufacturing out of hard economic times.

"We are making more money available to support businesses that are ready to expand, invest in new technology and to improve productivity and competitiveness," said Premier Rodney MacDonald.

In 2007-08, the Industrial Expansion Fund authorized nearly $60 million for 26 companies.

SaskEnergy to cut customer costs

BILLING Natural gas users in Saskatchewan could soon save more money on their heating bills — but not until spring.

SaskEnergy announced yesterday that it is looking to cut the overall rate by about 19 per cent, or about $20 a month, for residential customers because commodity prices have dropped due to the global economic slowdown.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRIME It was a story that tugged at the heartstrings — a Good Samaritan who stopped to help two people on a rural Manitoba road ended up being robbed of his truck and left alone. But RCMP say they now have discovered the story was a lie. The detachment in Portage la Prairie, Man., received a call early Saturday from a man who told them his truck had been stolen after he pulled over on a rural road to help two people stuck in a car. But the man eventually admitted to police he had made up the story.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cruise ship carrying 105 passengers runs aground

The Bahamian-flagged cruise ship Ocean Nova, carrying 105 people including seven Canadians, ran aground in Antarctica yesterday, but there were no risks to the passengers on board, the Argentine navy and the ship's operator reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Rare U.S. praise for Venezuela

The United States says the referendum that cleared the way for Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez to run his third term was democratic. It was rare praise for a U.S. antagonist after years of criticism. Though a State Department official noted "troubling reports of intimidation," the referendum was for the most part "fully consistent with democratic processes." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. troops kill Afghan citizens

AFGHANISTAN American troops shot and killed two Afghan civilians yesterday in western Kandahar province as a new United Nations report warned the number of civilian deaths in Afghanistan increased 40 per cent to an all-time high of 2,118 last year.

The pair were travelling in a vehicle that reportedly came too close to a foot patrol in the Maywand district west of Kandahar city. The soldiers feared a suicide bomber and said they warned the driver to halt several times before opening fire.

The U.S. troops were under Canadian command, part of a battalion brought to Maywand as part of Ottawa's agreement to extend the current mission to 2011.

A Canadian military official said "civilian deaths are always regrettable."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

India **Reptile-friendly rally**

BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snake charmers hold traditional instruments used to dig pits to find snakes at a protest rally in Calcutta, India. Nearly 1,000 snake charmers held a street protest yesterday, demanding annulment of a 1991 law banning the commercial use of reptiles, including performances with live snakes.

Stimulus plan signed

$787B US package aims to revive economy

U.S. President Barack Obama signed a massive $787-billion US package yesterday to revive the economy, saying the measure represented the "essential work of keeping the American dream alive in our time."

The stimulus plan of spending programs and tax cuts is at the heart of Obama's effort to turn the economy back into a job-creating machine. It comes with a huge price tag for taxpayers and lingering doubts about whether the plan's results will match all the lofty promises that its supporters have made.

Lofty goals

- The stimulus plan provides tax breaks, unemployment benefits, and pumps money into infrastructure, health care, renewable energy development and conservation, job production and long-term economic viability.

Obama now turns his attention to a plan to help homeowners who are trying to fend off foreclosure.

"I don't want to pretend that today marks the end of our economic troubles," Obama said before signing the legislation.

"Nor does it constitute all of what we are going to have to do to turn our economy around. But today does mark the beginning of the end."

Meanwhile, the White House isn't ruling out a second economic plan, although none is in the works right now, spokesman Robert Gibbs said yesterday.

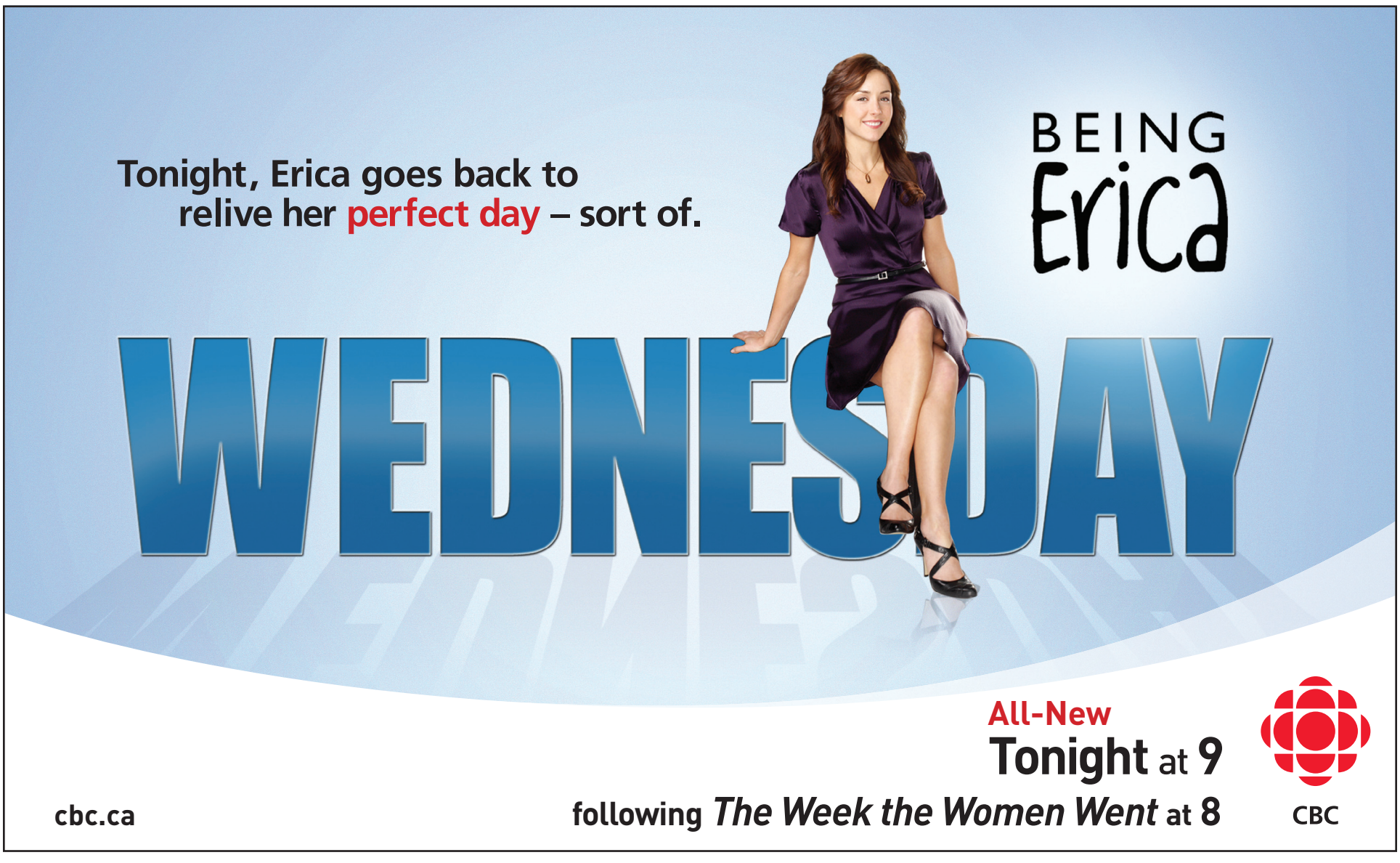
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

QUITS Japan's Finance Minister Soichi Nakagawa resigned yesterday after slurring his speech and nodding off during the G7 summit last weekend. He denied he was drunk on the job, blaming his behaviour on cold medicine and jet lag.

OHIO A man held a woman captive in handcuffs and an adult diaper for three days while he read Bible passages to her, and tried to suffocate her, police said. Tony Brisport, 34, faces kidnapping and felonious assault charges.

CONGO An Ebola virus outbreak that killed 15 people is now over, Congo's health minister said yesterday. He confirmed there had been a total of 32 cases. There have been no no cases since early January. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Man accused of beheading wife
Police say an upstate New York man beheaded his wife after she filed for divorce. Muzzammil Hassan, 44, is charged with murder. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Riots in Guadeloupe

Strikers want lower prices, higher wages

The French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe was on the verge of rebellion, a political leader said yesterday after stone-throwing protesters set cars and buildings ablaze, forced the airport to close and clashed with police.

Nearly four weeks of work stoppages and demonstrations for lower prices and higher pay have caused thousands of tourists to flee or cancel holidays on the normally tranquil island, prompting many hotels to close and cruise ships to head elsewhere.

Demands

- Paris has refused to budge on strikers' demands for a $250 US monthly raise for low-paid workers who now make about $1,130 a month.
- Business leaders in Martinique have agreed to lower prices by 20 per cent on 100 products, including food.

Police said they arrested 18 people overnight as protesters burned cars, a library and a boat-rental store in Sainte-Anne and Point-a-Pitre. An official said three officers suffered minor wounds due to gunshots fired by looters taking advantage of the chaos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

RAIDS Palestinian officials in the Gaza Strip say Israeli planes have attacked smuggling tunnels around the Gaza-Egypt border and a Hamas security base, largely reduced to rubble in previous attacks, near the town of Khan Younis, destroying a mosque left standing.

BUFFALO CRASH Recordings of an air traffic controller's words as Flight 3407 burned on the ground near Buffalo last week show there was no mayday call. Captured by amateur radio and aviation enthusiasts, they were posted to www.LiveATC.net. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danish PM says he's not running for top NATO job

SPECULATION Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen has rejected speculation he is in the running to become NATO's next secretary general.

Rasmussen

Two Canadians, Defence Minister Peter MacKay and former deputy prime minister John Manley, have also been touted as possible candidates for the job.

Danish media and political pundits have long considered Rasmussen as a possible front-runner to replace Jaap de Hoop Scheffer when his term ends at the end of July.

Speculation grew after the government announced he would travel to Britain and Germany for talks with the leaders of those countries. But Rasmussen said yesterday he intends to remain prime minister.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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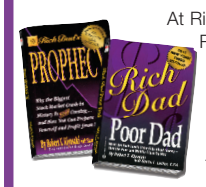

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Robert Kiyosaki will not attend this workshop.

14 world

British nuclear plant fined for radioactive leaks

A nuclear power plant northeast of London, England, has been fined $450,000 for radioactive waste leaks over 14 years. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NATO warns Pakistan

Deal could provide safe haven for Taliban

NATO warned yesterday Pakistan risked creating a safe haven for Islamist extremists after it struck a deal to impose Islamic law and suspend a military offensive in the former tourist haven of Swat.

Criticism of the truce mounted as a hardline cleric sent by the government to convince the Taliban to stop fighting as part of the deal arrived in the Swat Valley's main city of Mingora to a hero's welcome.

"We should all be concerned by a situation in which extremists would have a safe haven."
NATO spokesman James Appathurai

NATO says it has 55,000 troops across the border in Afghanistan, and many of them have come under attack by Taliban and al-Qaida fighters believed to have sought refuge in Pakistan's northwest.

"We should all be concerned by a situation in which extremists would have a safe haven," NATO spokesman James Appathurai said about the deal.

"Without doubting the good faith of the Pakistani government, it is clear that the region is suffering very badly from extremists and we would not want it to get worse." **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Soldier arrested over jihad videos

SPAIN Police say they have arrested a Spanish soldier and his girlfriend for making and distributing videos promoting Islamic jihad, or holy war, and calling for attacks in Spain.

A police statement says Christian Peso Ruiz Coello and his Russian girlfriend Maria Choubina, both 24, placed at least 11 videos on the Internet. The statement says both are Muslims.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BRITAIN Harrods department store owner Mohamed Al Fayed — known for his son Dodi Fayed's ill-fated romance with Diana, Princess of Wales — will not face charges over an allegation he sexually assaulted a teenage girl, British prosecutors said yesterday. They said police conducted a thorough investigation, including taking statements from a number of people, but there wasn't a solid case to be made against Al Fayed. He had previously denied kissing a 15-year-old girl at his store last May.

AUSTRALIA The confirmed death toll from Australia's deadly wildfires reached the grim milestone of 200 yesterday, and a police official said some bodies reduced to ash in the inferno would never be identified. Investigators confirmed 11 additional people had died in one of more than 400 fires that raged across southern Victoria state on Feb. 7, destroying more than 1,800 homes and scorching more than 3,900 square kilometres of farms, forests and towns.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Haysook Choi BScN RN, CDE
St. Michael's Hospital, Diabetes Research Center
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Comment

Equalization for uncertain times

NoBorders

Deborah Coyne
dmr.coyne@rogers.com

How many times must Premier Danny Williams verbally explode about "equalization" before the Harper government abandons its hyper-partisan approach to serious matters of national interest? Equalization is a very serious matter, which, together with other federal-provincial transfers for health, education and social services, plays a critical role in promoting equality of opportunity and comparable levels of services across Canada. This commitment defines a great nation.

Regrettably, we can no longer measure how well the myriad of federal contributions to the provinces, including equalization, helps to ensure comparable public services across Canada. No amount of tinkering with the arcane equalization formula will fix this fundamental problem, especially since too many other federal programs incorporate confusing equalizing elements that exacerbate inequities among Canadians. The best example is employment insurance, which is structured to benefit the unemployed who live in weaker areas of the country.

There is urgent need to bring coherence, consistency and accountability to the jumble of federal contributions to provinces, especially with Ontario qualifying for equalization. Unfortunately, the Harper government has no interest in promoting comparable public services — the recent manifestation of this being the elimination of all federal funds for child-care operations. Harper's seemingly real agenda is to downsize the national government, download responsibilities and fiscal room, permanently eliminating Ottawa's ability to pursue national standards and objectives in most public services and programs.

With every month in power, Harper draws closer to achieving his goal.

Harper's signature step — the GST cut — reducing national revenue by $60 billion over five years, was a bad step in the best of times, universally condemned by economists, and now cripples the national government's ability to respond in this, the worst of times. Yet Harper refuses to reconsider.

Opposition parties must directly challenge this agenda. Explain to Canadians why we must stop weakening the fiscal position of the federal government — taking care not to turn national politics into a complex and excruciatingly boring accounting problem. Propose the establishment of a permanent non-partisan advisory commission to make the system of federal contributions to provinces more transparent and subject to public scrutiny. And ensure that, through the commission, decisions relating to federal-provincial fiscal relations are based on intelligent debate and reflect longer-term national objectives to build stronger ties among Canadians rather than weakening them.

Deborah Coyne ran as a Liberal candidate in the 2006 federal election and is a public policy consultant who runs canadianswithoutborders.blogspot.com

Word on the street: Do you think U.S. President Barack Obama will usher in a new era of Canada/U.S. relations?

Matthew Clarke
age 23, Toronto

A: I think so. I hope so. He's a voice for change in the States, so hopefully we're on the boat with that, too.

Mark Halkias
age 21, Toronto

A: I don't necessarily see it improving substantially. Contrary to his visits overseas, he always has the U.S. economy as first priority.

Stacey Ireland
age 20, Toronto

A: I have a feeling that if the stimulus package doesn't go over well, then there might be some tension.

Leslie Philmore
age 36, Halifax

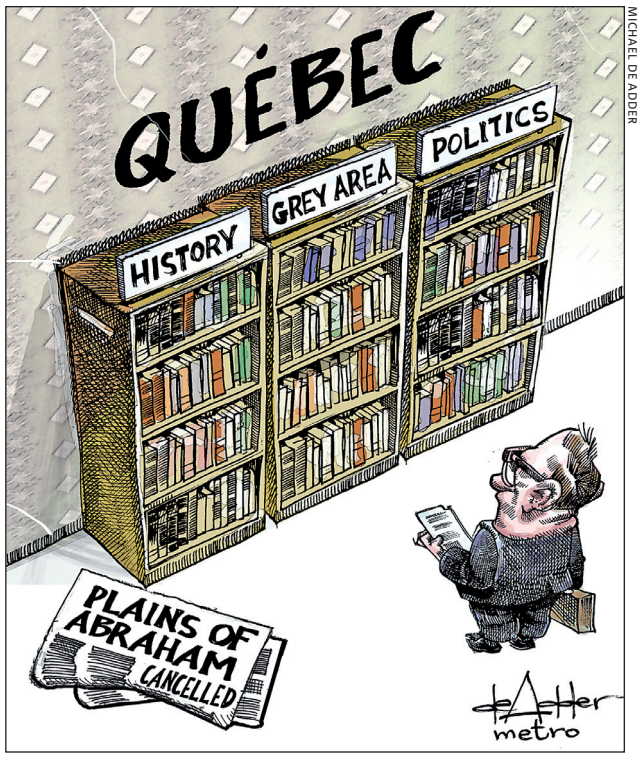
A: It depends on the Canadian government's response to him. I think his election makes Canadians think they can elect someone like Michael Ignatieff.

Gail Morrisey
age 46, Falls River

A: Hopefully. There are a lot of trade issues to settle and I think someone new will work out the bugs.

Scott Book
age 33, Edmonton

A: I think he'll improve relations just because he's well liked. People will listen to what he says.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Hydroelectric project expected to cost $1 billion more

The Lower Churchill hydroelectric project is estimated to cost $1 billion more than previously expected but will transmit an additional 300 megawatts of energy, says Newfoundland and Labrador's energy corporation. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Cellphones to get standard chargers

AGREE The GSMA mobile phone industry association says 17 cellphone operators and handset makers have agreed to standardize chargers, with shared USB interfaces, by 2012 for most cellphones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More auto jobs at risk

As General Motors and Chrysler scrambled to finalize U.S. restructuring plans that involve new job cuts, Prime Minister Stephen Harper warned that more streamlining also awaits the battered Canadian auto sector.

Harper said he's confident GM will not pull out of Canada, a possibility raised by the Canadian Auto Workers union. But he said that doesn't mean the industry should expect the status quo going forward.

In its proposal, Chrysler said it needs another $5 billion US to survive, and it will cut 3,000 jobs and three vehicle models as part of the restructuring plan submitted to the U.S. government.

Big 3 in Canada

- **GM Canada:** HQ Oshawa. Employs 19,000 in Oshawa, St. Catharines, Windsor.
- **Ford Canada:** Base Oakville. Plants in Oakville, St. Thomas, Windsor.
- **Chrysler Canada:** Base Windsor. Employs 9,800 in Windsor, Brampton, Toronto.

GM said it may need up to $30 billion US — borrowing up to $16.6 billion more from the government — as it implements a survival plan that includes cutting 47,000 jobs and closing five more U.S. factories.

Ford is not part of any bailout talks in Canada or the United States.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Coffee **Instant Starbucks**

TINA FINEBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Howard Schultz, chairman, president and CEO of Starbucks, introduces Starbucks VIA Ready Brew yesterday in New York. The new instant coffee goes on sale in Seattle and Chicago next month before rolling out to all Starbucks U.S. stores in the fall.

Business in brief

LOSS Toronto-based Royal Laser, a steel processor and wood fabricator, reported a bigger third-quarter loss of $8.6 million as it separates its steel business from its wood and metal manufacturing division.

BOARD Troubled energy company Canadian Superior Energy is under pressure to shake up its board of directors, as well as from a key lender to fully repay a $45-million credit line in a week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bell changes stance on outsourcing

TECH HELP Bell Canada will no longer be transferring one million calls for technical assistance to India because it isn't satisfied with all of the results, the company's chief executive told the BCE Inc. shareholders meeting yesterday.

CEO George Cope said improved customer service is one of five key strategic moves planned by Bell to be more competitive. He said BCE's other goals include maintaining a competitive cost structure, accelerating growth of its wireless business and investing in technology.

The meeting lacked the angst of the last shareholder meeting where investors launched sharp attacks at Cope's predecessor Michael Sabia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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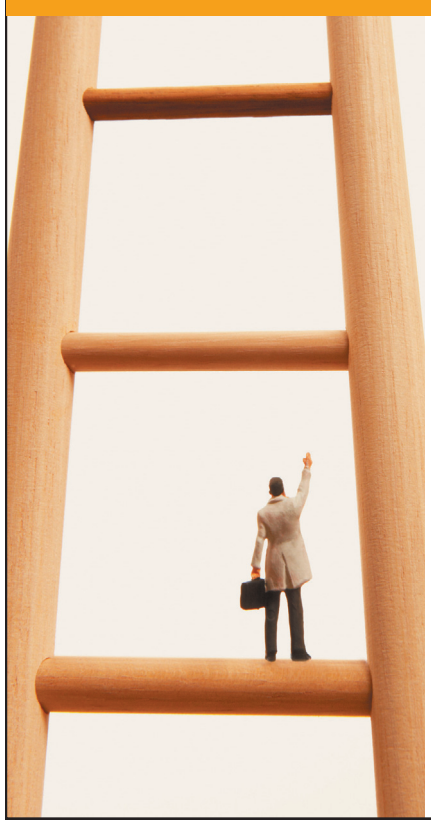

Kovalev asked to take a break

Struggling veteran forward Alex Kovalev, right, has been given some time off by the Montreal Canadiens. General manager Bob Gainey said yesterday he met with Kovalev to tell him he won't be on the team's trip this week for games tonight in Washington and tomorrow in Pittsburgh. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

"I knew we weren't taking Tic Tacs ... I didn't think they were steroids."

Alex Rodriguez at a Yankees news conference yesterday, discussing how his cousin introduced him to the performance-enhancing drug "boli" in 2001, saying it was an over-the-counter substance in the Dominican Republic. Rodriguez blamed his use of it on being young and naive. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Sabres swat Pogge

NHL RESULT

Sabres 4 Maple Leafs 1

VS

Drew Stafford helped make it a rough home debut for Justin Pogge.

The Buffalo foward beat the rookie goaltender twice last night as the Sabres dumped the Toronto Maple Leafs 4-1. It was the first regular-season start for Pogge on home ice. Daniel Paille and Matt Ellis also scored for the Sabres (30-22-6), who moved into a tie for fifth in the Eastern Conference.

Pavel Kubina replied for the Maple Leafs (21-26-10).

If not for some great play by Sabres goalie Ryan Miller, the Leafs would have had an early lead. When the Sabres finally pushed back, they managed to get some pucks behind Pogge quickly as he allowed three goals in the opening period.

Suddenly, Buffalo had a 3-0 lead despite being outplayed by the Leafs for most of the period.

Toronto will keep Pogge with the big club for the rest of its current homestand and may even start him tomorrow against Columbus or Saturday against Vancouver.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Justin Pogge gave up three first-period goals in Toronto's 4-1 loss to Buffalo last night.

Marion ready for more tempo

Shawn Marion's game doesn't exactly lend itself to a plodding, pedestrian halfcourt style.

So when the newest Raptor sat down with coach Jay Triano to talk about his role with Toronto, Marion was happy to hear there would be more than a little running involved.

"The way coach basically explained it to me, we're going to get up and down the court a little bit more, it's going to be more fun to go out there and just play ball," Marion said at a news conference yesterday at the Air Canada Centre.

"The game is supposed to be exciting. I'm tired of playing that boring style, halfcourt, just watching everybody go up and run a play, call this play, run this play. That's boring, I'm not going to lie to you. I know fans don't enjoy it, either."

Tonight

VS

7 p.m.
TSN2/FAN 590

The Raptors officially introduced Marion and Marcus Banks at the ACC on the heels of Friday's trade that brought the two to Toronto for Jermaine O'Neal, Jamario Moon and a conditional draft pick.

Speed will be a theme for the Raptors in their push for a spot in the NBA post-season. Entering yesterday's games, the Raptors are 14th in the Eastern Conference, five games out of a playoff spot.

Marion was a four-time all-star as part of the run-and-gun Phoenix Suns, and has averaged 17.9 points and 10.0 rebounds over 10 seasons with Phoenix and Miami.

He and Banks were traded to the Heat last February, but Marion's role diminished in the shadow of Dwyane Wade, where he averaged just 12 points and 8.7 rebounds this season.

Marion will line up alongside former U.S. teammate Chris Bosh, along with emerging forward Andrea Bargnani in what could be a potent frontcourt.

"I know what (Bosh) is capable of and I'm usually on the other end guarding him," Marion said. "He's definitely a talented player. I think we can complement one another, especially with (Jose) Calderon at the point guard position, who's a very good distributor." THE CANADIAN PRESS

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks are introduced to the Toronto media yesterday.

Lumsden signs with Eskimos

CFL Jesse Lumsden is going home. The speedy running back has signed a one-year contract plus an option with the Edmonton Eskimos, the team said yesterday. Lumsden is an Edmonton native and his father, Neil, is a former Eskimos player. "To get a person of his calibre makes our offence even more potent," Eskimos head coach Richie Hall said. The six-foot-two, 226-pound Lumsden, who grew up in Burlington, has a blend of speed and size that makes him a threat going wide while also being able to get the tough yards inside. However, Lumsden, 26, has been forced to shut it down early the last two years due to season-ending shoulder surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lumsden

Argos New signings unveiled

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New offensive linemen Dominic Picard, left, and Rob Murphy, right, pose with Argonauts GM/VP Adam Rita yesterday.

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McGrady staying put: Owner

Houston Rockets owner Leslie Alexander said yesterday that oft-injured star Tracy McGrady won't be dealt before tomorrow's NBA trade deadline. Alexander said "there will probably be some news" about McGrady in "a couple of days," but it won't be an announcement that the seven-time all-star has been traded. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

MLB Canadian reliever Eric Gagne and the Milwaukee Brewers agreed to a minor-league deal yesterday with an invitation to the major-league camp. Gagne had a $10-million US one-year deal last season.

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Deep Impact in Montreal

As Ottawa continues its CFL vs. MLS debate and the Vancouver Whitecaps wait patiently in the wings for word on their MLS franchise, the Montreal Impact, the unassuming USL-1 franchise, just set the all-time attendance record for a CONCACAF game.

With little less than a week before their quarterfinal Champions League match against Mexican side Santos Laguna, the Impact announced Monday that they have sold 43,000 tickets to Olympic Stadium.

Let me repeat that once more — Montreal, in the dead of winter, in the heart of Habs country, just sold 43,000 seats to a soccer game.

Olé, olé, olé, non?

It's not as strange as you might think — the late 1970s and early '80s were filled with these kinds of numbers.

In 1983, 60,432 showed up at B.C. Place to watch Vancouver take on the Seattle Sounders. Its average attendance that year was more than 29,000.

In 1981, 58,542 cheered the Montreal Manic past the Chicago Sting — both now defunct franchises. Montreal's average attendance that year topped 23,000.

Toronto FC supporters will point to their past two seasons of stadium sell-outs as proof of the beautiful game returning to popularity in Canada, but, for Montreal, it is certainly the high-water mark in the wave of the game's rising interest.

JustSoccer

Ben Rycroft

ben.rycroft@metronews.ca

But two things, beyond the attendance, are needed to make this moment last as a Canadian success story.

One, the club has to get a decent result at the Big O. If Santos wipes the pitch with it, those waves of interest will recede quickly in Montreal.

Bluntly, the odds are stacked against the Impact. Santos is approaching mid-season form in the Mexican Premier league while Montreal is still shaking off its winter hibernation. The two-game home-and-away format allows for few mistakes but even a tie in next Wednesday's game would give the Impact hope of advancing to the CONCACAF semifinals.

Two, the winter weather has got to co-operate. It was nearly 10 years ago that a very large chunk of that aging elephant of a stadium collapsed on to a surprised auto show and since then, little winter activity has been permitted.

The city of Montreal has put strict conditions on its use: There can be no snow or ice on the roof at kickoff, there can be no snow or ice on the tower at kickoff and in the 24 hours prior to kickoff there can be no snowfall or freezing rain forecast.

So, basically, there may be no kickoff.

The following night will be the makeup date — but after that, no one is quite sure what will happen.

For those that have pained for the return to the game's popularity of 20 years ago, now would be the time to put aside your club allegiances and get behind the Impact for the sake of the game.

Or, if that's too much to ask, at the very least, pray for some good weather.

Watch Ben Rycroft on the It's Called Football show every Sunday at metronews.ca

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Sports in brief

MLB The Atlanta Braves tried to close a deal with Ken Griffey Jr. yesterday, hoping the aging slugger who ranks fifth on baseball's career homer list can bolster an outfield that produced the fewest long balls in the majors last season. Griffey had narrowed his search for a new home to Seattle, where he starred from 1989-99, and the Braves, a team his father played for in the 1980s and long on Junior's wish list.

NBA The Oklahoma City Thunder have acquired centre Tyson Chandler from New Orleans in a deal that sends veterans Joe Smith and Chris Wilcox to the Hornets. After years of trying to draft and develop a front-line centre, the move finally gives the Thunder a proven talent inside. The seven-foot-one Chandler has averaged 8.8 points and 8.3 rebounds a game this season as the frequent recipient of all-star point guard Chris Paul's alley-oop passes.

NBA The Sacramento Kings have acquired veteran guard Sam Cassell from the Boston Celtics for a conditional second-round draft pick in 2015. The 39-year-old Cassell hasn't played this season for the Celtics, who acquired him in early March before their run to the NBA title.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

For more sports coverage, visit us online at www.metronews.ca/sports

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NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Buffalo 4 **TORONTO** 1
Boston 5 Carolina 1
Chicago 5 Tampa Bay 3
Florida 4 New Jersey 0
Ottawa at Colorado
Vancouver at Calgary
Edmonton at San Jose

NBA

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Washington 111 Minnesota 103
Orlando 107 Charlotte 102 (OT)
Milwaukee 92 Detroit 86
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Metro Drive

Maybach's new metal

Maybach has announced its Zeppelin will premiere at the Geneva Motor Show, Canadian Driver reports. It is a successor to the Maybach Zeppelin that was considered the ultimate in high-class automotive engineering in the 1930s. The flagship Zeppelin will feature a unique paint finish, meticulously crafted interior materials, and several new options including a perfume atomizer. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

May the best hybrid win

Toyota Prius, Honda Insight go head to head this spring

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Perhaps the best introductions in keeping with the 2009 Canadian International Auto Show's The New Era theme were those of Honda and Toyota, who both revealed the latest versions of their hybrid-electric sedans to great fanfare.

Both automakers have a long history of hybrid technology, but while Toyota currently gets the "green" vibe from the public, it was actually Honda who first introduced North America to hybrid propulsion with the original Insight in 2000.

Designed as a frugal, two-seat runabout, the Insight was widely respected for its technology and stellar fuel consumption numbers.

However, once Toyota released its revolutionary Prius in 2001 in a traditional, more desirable and usable sedan body, the Insight quickly faded into the background.

Toyota was justifiably confident during the new Prius' introduction in Toronto.

"Many companies have been talking about their plans to deliver the car of the future, and Canadians will see many promising future technologies at the Canadian International Auto Show this week. With the new Prius, however, we are telling Canadians they can have the car of the future right now ... this spring, when it goes on sale across Canada," noted Stephen Beatty, managing director of Toyota Canada Inc.

The new Prius looks very similar to previous versions, but most of the effort was concentrated under the skin.

Toyota engineers focused their efforts on achieving a combined fuel consumption of 3.8L/100km — a seven per cent improvement — while offering more power.

Meanwhile, Honda has promised that its new four-door Insight will be the most inexpensive hybrid to purchase when it goes on sale later this year. The Insight's overall shape is remarkably similar to the Prius, but that's more likely the result of wind-tunnel testing to aid aerodynamic efficiency.

Some other things to note are that while the Prius is significantly larger than the Insight, the cabins are nearly the same size.

Also, while the Prius can drive solely on electricity around town at lower speeds, depending on conditions, the Insight really can't. Its electric motor is only there to assist the hyper-efficient gasoline engine.

That's why despite the Insight being smaller and lighter, it only registers a (still-impressive) 4.7L/100km combined fuel consumption rating. For comparison, a regular Honda Civic averages 6.4L/100km.

Pricing should bring expectations back in line, though. While a current Prius starts at around $28,000 (and expect the new version to remain close to that), Honda has stated that it wants to significantly undercut Toyota with the Insight, so consumers should pray for a $21,000 sticker.

Both hybrids are on track for release this spring, and while it would be foolish to declare a victor yet, in the end it's the public who wins by having more choice than ever when it comes to energy-conscious cars.

Read Metro's continued coverage of the Canadian International Auto Show at metronews.ca/automotive

Two to tango

HONDA INSIGHT:
EPA rating: Compact
Price: $21,000 (estimated)
Engine: 1.3L I4
HP: 98
Torque: 123
Fuel mileage (combined, L/100 km): 4.7
Seats: 5
Neat feature: Navigation

TOYOTA PRIUS:
EPA rating: Mid-sized
Price: $28,000 (estimated)
Engine: 1.8L I4
HP: 134
Torque: 258
Fuel mileage (combined, L/100 km): 3.8
Seats: 5
Neat feature: Self-parking

The new Toyota Prius.

The new Honda Insight.

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Auto show Red Zone gets the groove going

MARK ATKINSON
for Metro Canada

Think the Canadian International Auto Show is only about cars on show stands and stuffy shirts? The Red Zone is the auto show's way of moving beyond just the auto manufacturers and into the realm of car culture. And somehow, organizers have blended commerce, entertainment and art into a one-ring circus that spans the entire 100 level of the Rogers Centre.

David Ng, the manager in charge of entertainment for the Red Zone, is enthusiastic about the sheer number of DJs, displays, show vehicles and vendors they've managed to attract.

"With the break dancing and acrobatic displays, it has a little Cirque du Soleil feel," he said.

It's remarkable what's available to see and do in the Red Zone. "The main feature is the Scion Centre Stage," Ng said. "We actually have the Scion Fuse concept right in front where people can see it."

Over 110 hours of entertainment will be featured during the auto show. With performers like host DJ Subliminal, Strawberry Love and Caliente, the beats won't stop during the show's regular hours.

There will also be high-flying acrobatics and martial-arts demonstrations as the World Wushu Championships performance team previews their own title event in October. And local radio personality DJ Danny D from Z103.5 will be doing his entire Drive@5 show live from the Red Zone this week.

Elsewhere, the Sport Compact Revolution section is the perfect place to see some of the area's slickest customized cars, rare Japanese imports and in-car gadgets. Chances are, you may have seen some of these cars in one of the Sony PlayStation Gran Turismo games, but these hot models on display right here.

"We have the top Japanese supercars in various forms," Ng said. "Nissan Skylines, Honda NSX's, Mitsubishi Evos, all straight from Japan."

If you prefer megawatts to horsepower, then the ShoZone will be your getaway. Featuring demo vehicles from Clarion, Alpine Electronics, Sony and Pioneer, you'll be stunned at how many speakers, screens and amplifiers that can be crammed into something more suited to getting groceries!

And if you're the type of person who can't leave an auto show empty handed but a Ford Mustang is just too darned expensive, chances are you'll find it in miniature size in the Market Place. Everything from clothes, hats, keychains, models, toys, memorabilia, wheels, tires, body-kits, car covers, fuel treatments, car wash kits. They can all be found at one of the 125 vendors and exhibitors.

The Scion Fuse Concept has taken centre stage at The Canadian International Auto Show's arts, entertainment and car culture arena — The Red Zone.

"With the break dancing and acrobatic displays, it has a little Cirque du Soleil feel."
David Ng, Red Zone entertainment manager

Auto show guide

- **WHAT:** 2009 Canadian International Auto Show.
- **WHEN:** Till Sunday, Feb. 22.
- **HOURS:** Daily from 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Final show from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **WHERE:** Metro Toronto Convention Centre and Rogers Centre.
- **TICKETS:** $20 for adults, $7 for children aged 7-12, children 6 and under free. Multi-day pass $20. Family Pass $40 (2 adults, 2 children 12 and under).
- **CLOSEST SUBWAY:** Union Station, then Skywalk west toward Rogers Centre.
- **PARKING:** Free Parking at Harbourfront Centre on Queen's Quay and Lower Simcoe. Shuttle bus service runs entire length of show.

Boomers, you can always get what you want

AutoPilot
Michael Goetz
Veteran auto journalist

Those baby boomers always get their way. They got all that free love in the swinging '60s, jobs for life, real estate when it was cheap, and can actually get money out of the Canada Pension Plan. (Me bitter? No. I get to work until I'm 83. Why should I be bitter?)

And I don't know if you noticed, but the car market has also been at their beck and call. The market gave them cheap imports for their single years, created minivans for their family years, and concocted luxury SUVs so they would feel good about themselves in their peak earning years.

Now that they don't need minivans and SUVs, they're gravitating back to big, comfortable cars.

But get this — and this is so like them — they don't want their big comfortable cars to look like big comfortable cars, they want them to look sporty. When they're in these vehicles, they want to roll the window down, blast the stereo, and let the wind ruffle their hair-replacement transplants.

Vehicles catering to this demographic can be roughly described as large coupes, or sedans that look like coupes, and they have been popping up for a few years now. Consider the Mercedes-Benz CLS Class, Jaguar XF, Infiniti G37 (coupe and sedan), BMW 6 Series, Audi A5, Acura TL, and Pontiac G8.

The 2010 Hyundai Genesis sedan.

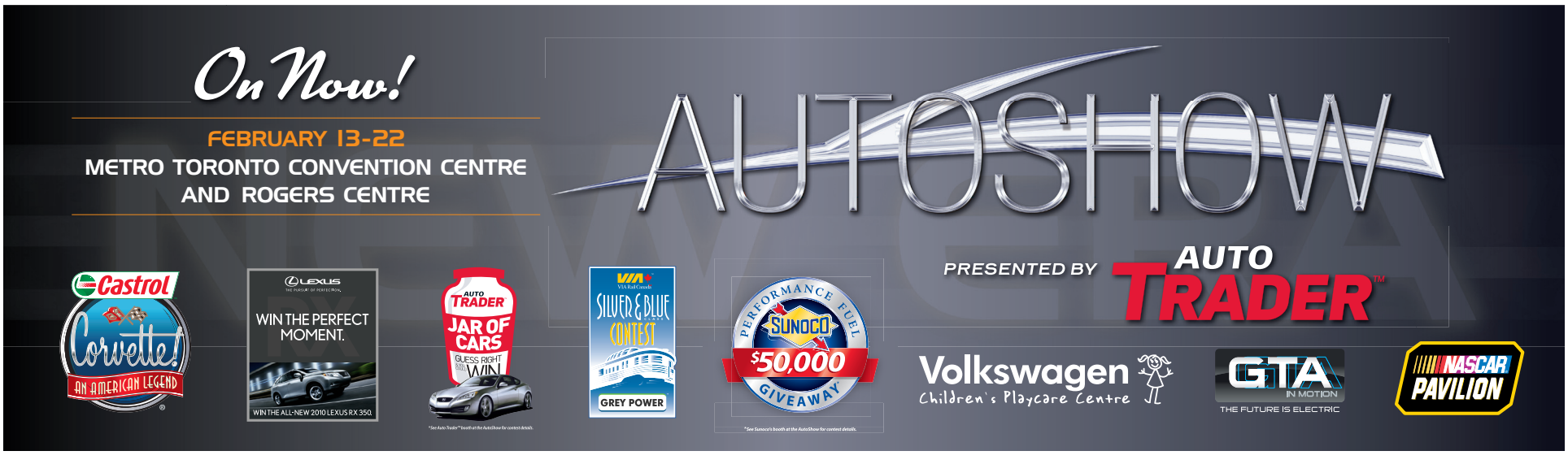
A quick tour around the Toronto auto show this week revealed even more new models in this mode. Witness the Passat CC, the new Hyundai 2010 Genesis coupe and sedan, the new Cadillac CTS, the new Lincoln MKZ, and the new Nissan Maxima. (Not at the show, but very emblematic of the trend, is Porsche's new "four-door" — the Panamera.)

Michael Pistol, a colleague who specializes in design, noted that these vehicles also tend not to be "too optimized." By that he means they're not about being organized to an inch of their lives, but have special aspects, in both the interior and exterior, that are there "just to look good." Pistol feels this is a backlash to some of the overly technical aspects of some high-end vehicles — which actually scare people.

He also noted that, if the driver's seat doesn't look like as comfortable as a La-Z-Boy, buyers wouldn't be interested.

I shouldn't be too hard on boomers. For one thing, I am one (at the tail end … always the worse end). For another, this class of vehicle is an entirely good and cool thing.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



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2009 Saturn VUE® XR model shown

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2008 Saturn ASTRA® 5-Door XR model shown

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2010 VW Golf unveiled

Volkswagen debuted the new 2010 Golf at the Canadian International Auto Show (CIAS) last week in Toronto.

The sixth generation compact hatchback was presented for the first time in North America in a five-door 2.0 litre TDI Diesel version.

One of the world's most popular vehicles ever, the Golf has sold over 26 million units since its introduction in Europe in 1974. Volkswagen also announced that nearly 400,000 Rabbits, Golfs, and GTIs have been sold in Canada since the introduction of the first generation in 1975.

The Golf's redesign team, headed by the Volkswagen Group's chief designer, Walter de Silva, with Klaus Bischoff and Flavio Manzoni, has succeeded in giving the Golf a presence, sharpness, and a power that generates even more fun.

All key body elements were redesigned, and the Golf has a sportier and more distinctive image.

In front, the new car adopts the radiator grille of the first generation Golf that is horizontally aligned between the headlights. The lines of the bumper match those of the radiator grille, and beneath this is a section with another air scoop.

The 2010 Volkswagen Golf made its North American debut at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto last week. The Golf has sold over 26 million units since its introduction in 1974.

The rear is characterized by a predominance of horizontal lines. The taillights — now very wide — are marked among other things by an unmistakably unique night design, and bear a resemblance to the taillights of the Touareg TDI Clean Diesel.

The interior is also newly designed, especially in the cockpit area. The appearance and layout of the materials, including details such as brushed chrome accents and round instruments derived directly from the Passat CC, and well-thought ergonomic properties with controls that are easier to use all contribute to a highly functional and pleasant experience.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Porsche allows peek inside Panamera

FIRST LOOK Porsche recently presented the interior of its Panamera four-door Gran Turismo. The much-anticipated addition to Porsche's lineup will go on sale in Canada in October.

With a centre console that extends from the dashboard to the rear seats, the Panamera offers a new spatial concept for the driver and passengers, featuring individual cockpit-like spaces. A deep seating position and sport steering wheel give the driver and passengers direct contact with the road.

Panamera also provides a roomy environment with exceptional leg — and headroom — unique qualities in a sporting machine, yet essential for grand touring.

Panamera S and Panamera 4S feature eight-way power seats in front with a driver memory package. In the rear are two individual seats with a folding rear console.

The Panamera Turbo adds an electronically adjustable steering wheel. Further seating customization is available through options such as 18-way adaptive sport seats and adjustable eight-way power rear seats.

Individual seating allows for optimum passive safety. In the event of an accident, front, side and curtain airbags protect the front occupants, while standard rear side airbags protect those in back.

Porsche will provide countless opportunities for individual customization, with 13 colour and material combinations — including four two-tone leather interiors and seven interior trim options including carbon-fibre and natural olive wood. A four-zone climate control system is also available.

Like all Porsches, Panamera will be available with a Bluetooth phone interface, Universal Audio Interface for personal audio devices, and satellite radio.

Initially, Panameras will be available with a choice of two V8 engines, standard seven-speed Porsche Doppelkupplungsgetriebe (PDK) double-clutch transmissions and rear- or all-wheel drive.

All engines feature Porsche Direct Fuel Injection (DFI) for highest efficiency.

For additional fuel savings, all Panameras include an engine stop-start function that can turn off and restart the engine at certain times, like when stopped at an intersection.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Berlin sound

- For the first time, an ultra-high-end surround-sound system from Burmester, the renowned Berlin audio manufacturer, will be available. The system features 16 speakers and a subwoofer for a total output of more than 1,000 watts.

The interior of the upcoming Porsche Panamera. The much-anticipated car goes on sale in Canada in October.

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Hot, hot Equator

Suzuki's light truck entry heavy with features

JIM KERR
for Metro Canada

There's a new player in the light truck market. Suzuki has expanded their lineup, not only adding compact cars and mid size SUV's, but now also have a mid-size truck in their portfolio. They call it the Equator.

Suzuki has built trucks before. Their first truck was the Suzulight Carry in 1961. We didn't see it here. Compared to other manufacturers, Suzuki is a relative newcomer to Canada, with Suzuki Canada Inc., founded in 1979 by parent company Suzuki Motor Corporation. To build a truck for North America, Suzuki has partnered with Nissan and will utilize Nissan's next generation Frontier platform for their first venture into the mid-size truck market.

According to Seiichi Maruyama, president of Suzuki Canada, "Pickup buyers in Canada are a particularly good fit for Suzuki since, statistically speaking, they're more likely to participate in lifestyle-oriented activities."

While U.S. buyers get the option of extended cab or crew cab, four cylinder or V6, manual or automatic transmission, the Equator in Canada is only available with the more versatile and popular crew cab configuration with V6 and automatic transmission. With 261 horsepower, the 4.0 litre V6 engine with a five speed automatic transmission provides ample power. Fuel economy is rated at 14.4 L/100 km in the city and 10.4 L/100 km on the highway, which is excellent for a vehicle with 281 ft lbs of torque and a towing capacity of 2767 kg.

For some serious off-road adventures, shift the standard two-speed transfer case into low range and let that four wheel drive system do the work. Stability control, traction control and ABS will help the driver both on and off road. A spray-in bedliner comes as standard equipment on every Equator and this tough low-slip surface will keep the interior of the box looking good no matter what you are hauling.

Inside, the Equator offers air conditioning, power windows and locks, keyless entry, cruise control, tilt steering, 60/40 split folding rear seats with underseat storage and security net over the storage area, rear window defroster and heated outside mirrors.

The interior looks attractive and access is very good, with the rear doors opening a full 90 degrees.

Mid-size trucks are gaining popularity for their fuel economy and economical pricing.

There are limited choices in the mid-size truck market and Suzuki may be introducing the right vehicle at the right time. Recent Suzuki vehicles have been of excellent quality and the Equator's five year/100,000 km powertrain warranty will build confidence in the product. Capable of hauling passengers and cargo, towing a trailer or just playing around in the countryside, the Equator looks ready to go.

2009 Suzuki Equator

Type: 4WD mid-size pickup truck
Price: from $33,795
Engine: 4.0 litre DOHC V6
HP: 261 at 5600 rpm
Torque: 281 lb.ft. at 4000 rpm

Highlights

- Stability control
- Spray-on bed liner
- Rear window defroster
- Air conditioning

The 2009 Suzuki Equator is perfectly suited for Canadian outdoor and off-roading lifestyle, says Seiichi Maruyama, president of Suzuki Canada.

Capable of hauling passengers and cargo, towing a trailer or just playing around in the countryside, the Equator looks ready to go.

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Maserati started the trend of more practical, four-door supercars with the Quattroporte in 2004

Four-door solution

Pricey supercars ditch impractical designs

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

The global credit crisis has had a huge impact on the car industry as motorists tighten their purse strings.

Once-wealthy city bankers are selling their Porsches at bargain prices, and even the mega-rich are thinking twice about adding an extra exotic supercar to their collections.

Heavy on fuel, with just two seats, slung so low that they are lacerated by speed bumps, and with an engine stowed where your golf bag or baby buggy would go, they have always been wildly impractical.

That owners would always have to have and necessitated the purchase of a practical everyday car only consolidated the supercar as the ultimate status symbol of conspicuous consumption.

However, supercars are increasingly hard to justify in the current economic climate, which is why it's serendipitous that there's a new trend emerging from the supercar market — the four-seater, four-door supercar.

Aston Martin Rapide, top, and Lamborghini Estoque.

It was the Maserati that started the trend with the Quattroporte in 2004 — an elegant car so practical that model agencies now use them to ferry their supermodels around London Fashion Week. Now the other luxury supercars are set to follow on the four-door front.

This year keep an eye out for the breathtakingly beautiful DB9-based Aston Martin Rapide, as well as the Porsche Panamera.

Even Lamborghini, purveyors of the most flash and impractical cars on the road, revealed their own four-door front-engine Estoque concept at the Paris Motor show at the end of last year. They have hinted at a production version, that might even have a hybrid or turbo-diesel engine, although no date has been revealed.

So now supercar fans have a very real way of enjoying the thrill of a V12 engine, while being able to ferry the kids to their private school.

All they need now is a four-door Ferrari to add to the car dealership floor.

"Supercars are increasingly hard to justify in the current economic climate, which is why it's serendipitous that there's a new trend emerging from the supercar market — the four-seater, four-door supercar."

G37 convertible wows auto fans

AUTO Infiniti took the top down at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto last week as Ontario auto fans got their first look at the new addition to its G Family of vehicles. The all-new 2009 G37 coupe convertible, retains the G coupe's long hood and graceful trunk proportions through use of a fully-automatic three-piece hardtop design.

The powerful and efficient 325-horsepower, 3.7-litre V6 engine provides the Infiniti performance drivers love with the added enjoyment of driving with the top up, or down.

"As we get a little closer to summer in Canada, we're excited to add the stunning new G37 convertible to our already popular G Family," said Wendy Durward, director of Infiniti dealer operations.

"This year-round vehicle offers the sleek style and performance you expect from a G, with a little something extra for those who like to experience the wind in their hair."

The G convertible's interior includes standard leather-appointed seating, Bose(R) Open Air Sound System and an Adaptive Dual Zone Climate Control System that adjusts fan speed in accordance to top position and vehicle speed. The G37 will be available at Infiniti dealers later this spring. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Infiniti G37 convertible hits dealerships in spring.

T.O. gets first look at GLK350

PREMIERE The Mercedes-Benz GLK350 4MATIC(TM) made its regional premiere last week at the Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto.

Powered by a 268-horsepower 3.5-litre V6 engine, the GLK350 will form the basis of the Canadian lineup. The 2010 GLK-Class will go on sale in Canada in early 2009.

Showcasing a bold exterior design, generous cargo capacity and 4MATIC(TM) all-wheel-drive, the GLK350 combines the perfect balance of style, versatility and performance. The car will be produced exclusively at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Bremen, Germany.

The angular profile of the GLK sets it apart from the competition. From its steeply-raked windshield to the integrated rear spoiler on its tightly styled roof section, the bullish shape of the new GLK suggests power and agility and echoes the G-Class — the iconic pioneer of the Mercedes-Benz SUV family.

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#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease example based on 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £1.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $178 with $2,664.66 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,310 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,665.79. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990 plus $1,310 freight and PDI, financed at 0.9% APR equals $515.42 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $255.02 for a total obligation of $18,555.02. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary, MSRP of Civic Sedan EX-L, model FA1509JNX shown is $23,480. #/£/†Offers valid from February 3rd, 2009 through February 28th, 2009 at participating Honda retailers. Offer subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. NHL and the NHL Shield are registered trademarks of the National Hockey League. ©NHL 2008. All rights reserved. *As reported by Canadian manufactures for calendar year 2008.

Two-for-one deal extended

Trafalgar Tours has extended the booking period for its Buy One, Get One Free airfare deal with British Airways to March 31. The promotion covers travel from a variety of Canadian cities to many European gateways; see trafalgartours.ca for details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Dublin guide

If you're thinking of heading to Dublin for St. Patrick's Day, check out visitdublin.com for a rundown of hotel deals, activities, maps and iWalks, free podcast audio guides to the city. You'll also find a link to the Dublin Pass, a savings package that covers free entry to 27 top attractions, free transport from Dublin Airport to the city and more. The site also boasts a handy countdown-to-St.-Patrick's-Day-2009 clock — and we're at 26 days now, so get planning. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Seeing Los Angeles on a budget

The stars may spare no expense, but you don't need to follow suit

Enjoying Oscars season in Los Angeles, especially during a recession, doesn't require a designer ballgown, diamond encrusted necklaces or a shiny, gilded statuette. The Academy Awards take place Feb. 22 at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre, oscars.org.

While celebrities may spend thousands of dollars to prep for the lavish ceremony, travellers to the city can get a taste of the Oscars and movie history, plus glimpse celebs, without the big bucks or bling.

AMY SANCETTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIC FRANCIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Left, a file picture of fans photographing celebrities as they arrive for the Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. Right, a statue of Johnny Ramone marks his burial site at Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles.

Hollywood

The Kodak Theatre sits in the middle of the expansive Hollywood & Highland Center, a sprawling entertainment complex at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. that includes clothing stores, a bowling alley, the towering Renaissance Hollywood Hotel and movie theatres adjacent to the famed, copper-tipped Grauman's Chinese Theater, hollywoodandhighland.com

About 300 bleacher seats along the red carpet at the Oscars become available during a one-week lottery in late September through the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. But revellers can still observe Oscar preparations at Hollywood & Highland until the centre closes the night before the awards show.

For free thrills, stroll down the nearby Hollywood Walk of Fame, stretching down Hollywood Boulevard. Glittering stars on the sidewalk display the names of thousands of celebrities. Grauman's Chinese Theatre's forecourt showcases cement-steeped celebrity handprints and autographs, from Paul Newman's meaty palms to Marilyn Monroe's smaller ones. Impersonators dressed up as Superman, Monroe and others entertain on the street.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Oscar events

People itching to get in on some thrifty pre-Oscars action can snap up tickets to events held in the five days before the show by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences at its Beverly Hills headquarters, 8949 Wilshire Blvd. (Note that tickets, which range from free to $5 US became available Feb. 2, and always go very quickly.) The events include symposiums with the current crop of makeup and hairstylist Oscar nominees, plus nominees in the feature animation and foreign language film categories. Film clips will also be screened; see oscars.org.

Movie-lovin' fashionistas should go to the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising's 17th annual Art of Motion Picture Costume Design exhibit, 919 S. Grand Ave., where roughly 125 costumes from more than 20 films released in 2008 are on display.

The free exhibit includes a grip of current best costume design Oscar nominees: The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The Duchess, Australia and Milk; see fidm.edu.

Studios and sets

Paramount Studios: Official tours of movie and TV studios throughout L.A. plop you into the thick of the biz, also without breaking your bank account. A twirl around the Paramount Studios lot, 5555 Melrose Ave., where Nip/Tuck and Dr. Phil are filmed, costs $35 per person, paramountstudios.com.

The roughly 70-minute tour of NBC Studios, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., travels through sets for The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and Days of Our Lives. Tickets cost $8.50 for adults and $5 for kids. Separate tickets to attend The Tonight Show are usually in high demand, see nbc.com/Footer/Tickets.

Universal Studios: Dubbing itself The Entertainment Capital of L.A., Universal Studios Hollywood has the most comprehensive behind-the-scenes tour, plus a theme park featuring zesty, hair-flattening rides based on The Simpsons, The Mummy franchise and other TV shows and movies, universalstudioshollywood.com.

Trams have been taking tourists through Universal's famed backlot since 1964. The current 45-minute tour showcases working and old sets, fiery and water-logged attractions recreating scenes from Universal movies, and snappy video narration by Whoopi Goldberg.

On a recent day, tram travellers could see a crew shooting in front of a backdrop of yellow and beige houses making up Wisteria Lane for ABC's Desperate Housewives.

Close by, robotic dinosaurs spit water in a leafy Jurassic Park setting. Cars straight out of The Fast and the Furious collide in a fiery crash. The dilapidated Bates Motel filmed for Alfred Hitchcock's Oscar-nominated 1960 thriller Psycho looms near the wrecked 747 airplane from Steven Spielberg's 2005 film War of the Worlds and the snow-powdered town of Whoville in Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas.

The Universal Experience, a recent addition to the theme park, houses dozens of movie artifacts, from the silky dresses in Atonement to Gregory Peck's glasses in 1962's To Kill a Mockingbird.

Read more on page 29 ››

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Montreal Haydn festival
The complete cycle of Joseph Haydn's 68 string quartets will be performed March 18 to 22 at a Montreal festival marking the bicentennial of the composer's death; fondationartemusica.ca. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Ontario outings

Second Annual Great Waterfront Trail Adventure

• You may feel we're jumping the season a bit, but we say it's never too early to plan your summer fun. To that end, registration is now open for the second annual Great Waterfront Trail Adventure Tour, a 730-kilometre cycling tour of the Ontario waterfront and greenways that will take place from July 4 to 11. Cyclists will travel from Niagara-on-the-Lake in the west to the Quebec border in the east, passing through 41 communities along the way.

Registration: Registration for the 2009 event is limited to 250 end-to-end entrants. Participants are also welcome to join the tour for two or three days and to use support vehicles, with two participants taking turns driving and riding. Registration fees apply, based on the number of riding days. For more information, or to register visit waterfronttrail.org or call 416-943-8080.

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cyclists pass through Fort York during last year's inaugural Great Waterfront Trail Adventure, a tour that goes from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., to the Quebec border.

West Side Story

• If a cultural outing is up your alley, check out Stratford Theatre's production of West Side Story, the beloved Tony award-winning musical. Based on Romeo and Juliet, societal problems come to a front when Caucasian Tony and Puerto Rican Maria fall in love. While the choreography and sophisticated theme intrigue many an audience, the Stephen Sondheim lyrics render the show unforgettable. Playing now through Oct. 31, 2010. Go to stratfordfestival.ca to book tickets online. Prices range from $39 to $79.

Wolfe Island

• Near Kingston, this 29-kilometre long island is located at the entrance to the St. Lawrence River in Lake Ontario. A free ferry ride on the Wolfe Islander III will take you to the island, where many rare birds and trees exist. Bed and breakfast hotels are plentiful. Snowy owls are frequently seen here during the winter. Visit wolfeisland.com for more information.

National Road Hockey Championships

• CBC's Hockey Night in Canada presents Play On, the four-on-four street hockey tournament featuring the top 16 teams nationwide. Watch the players battle it out for the gold on Riverside Drive — the coastal street where many of Windsor's most lavish homes stand. It all happens this Saturday and Sunday, and the event is free. Visit playon.ca for more information.

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Museum design competition
Six design teams, all with prominent black principals, are competing to design a national black history museum on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., according to the Smithsonian Institution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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KIRSTEN JOHNSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pelicans float in the bay of Puerto Ayora, Galapagos. The Galapagos National Park wants much of the fishing sector to become part of the tourism sector, but many fishermen lack the training and the capital to make the switch.

Galapagos tourism, fishing industries battle it out

Fisherman Luis Enrique Bonilla just wants to make a living. Galapagos Islands conservationists, worried that the marine reserve is overfished, want him to work in tourism.

Bonilla and the local fishermen he represents say a move from commercial fishing to boat tours is an expensive and complex prospect for which they have no money or training. They've already made concessions to preserve marine species: each owning only one small boat and using simple lines and lures to catch fish by hand.

But even with the restrictions, some species in the Galapagos Marine Reserve have been decimated — including sea cucumbers and lobster — putting even more pressure on fishermen forced to live off smaller catches.

On the eve of Charles Darwin's 200th birthday, Bonilla's story shows just how hard it is to protect the archipelago's biodiversity that Darwin made famous. Changing livelihoods from those that destroy the islands to those that sustain them is easier said than done.

The marine reserve, home to more than 3,000 species, has suffered over the years from fishermen eager to exploit local, national and international markets, park officials say.

Edwin Naula, director of tourism and a former director of the Galapagos National Park, said it has been a struggle to get fishermen to comply with rules to protect the reserve. "It's like when you have your children in the house and everything is out of order. And of course the children get angry when the father comes home and tells them to put things in order," he said.

Darwin, who was born Feb. 12, 1809, first arrived nearly 175 years ago, discovering the unique species that would become the basis for his theory of evolution. The spectacular subjects of his work, including finches, giant tortoises, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies, now draw more than 150,000 tourists a year to the Ecuadorean islands about 1,000 kilometres offshore in the Pacific Ocean.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Upward trend
According to VisitFlorida, Canadian travel to the state was up by 14 per cent in 2008 over the previous year. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Los Angeles place to see live, and dead, celebrities

Continued from page 26 »

Greystone Mansion: Greystone Mansion and park is one prime film location tucked away in Beverly Hills, on 905 Loma Vista Dr., greystonemansion.org.

TV shows such as Gilmore Girls and dozens of movies, including The Witches of Eastwick, X-Men and The Big Lebowski, have filmed there. A-list stars have also been known to tour the grounds on their off days.

The massive 80-year-old mansion is perched on seven hilltop hectares of spiralling staircases, waterfalls, ponds and grassy lanes that tourists can roam for zilch moolah.

Various movie productions have left their mark on the estate, from ornate black gates with looping Rs from 1994's Richie Rich to the house's bowling alley, renovated by Paramount over six weeks for Daniel Day-Lewis' pivotal bloody scene in There Will Be Blood.

All that blood won him last year's best actor Oscar.

Dead celebs

Hollywood Forever Cemetery: Those not opposed to traversing cemeteries will be sweetly rewarded by a free treasure trove of dead-and-gone movie icons throughout the city.

The Hollywood Forever Cemetery, 6000 Santa Monica Blvd., is a 25-hectare urban expanse of grass, trees and tombstones flanked to the south by Paramount Studios holl ywoodforever.com.

Classic film stars including Rudolph Valentino and Oscar-winning director Cecil B. DeMille are buried there. Memorial markers for blonde bombshell Jayne Mansfield and punk rocker Johnny Ramone attract fans from all over the world.

"Some of the graves and the stones here are just amazing," gushed retired nurse Gaye Culos, 62, recently visiting from Canada. Culos and her husband stood next to DeMille's huge marble tomb.

DeMille's circus spectacle The Greatest Show on Earth snagged him a best picture Oscar in 1953.

Forest Lawn: Glendale-based Forest Lawn, 1712 S. Glendale Ave., is another destination, stretching over more than 121 hectares of grass-covered hills north of downtown L.A.

Here you'll find grave sites for the likes of Clark Cable, Humphrey Bogart, Nat King Cole, Carole Lombard and Walt Disney, forestlawn.com.

Food

A good place to stuff your face while watching for live celebs is the Farmers Market, 6333 W. Third St., plus its immediate neighbour, The Grove, an outdoor mall, thegrovela.com.

A litany of stars, from Rihanna to Al Pacino, Kate Bosworth, Victoria Beckham, Lindsay Lohan and Heidi Klum have all been photographed there, not so incognito, farmersmarketla.com.

The market, this year celebrating its 75th anniversary, is one of the city's most charming spots, offering everything from side-by-side stands bursting with fruits and vegetables to French, Italian, Korean, Brazilian and Mediterranean cuisine, plus quirky tchotkes (cheap, colourful gifts can be found at the sticker store).

Sit down at an outdoor table, rest your feet. For just a few bucks, pick up a coffee and pastry from Bob's Coffee & Doughnuts to jump-start or top off a day trolling Tinseltown.

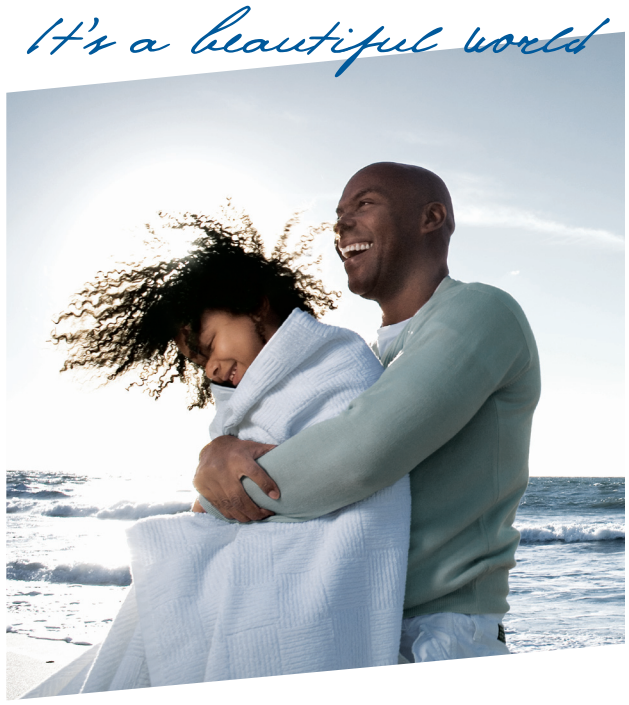
Getting around

L.A. is known for its car culture, but public transportation has been on the rise. A Metro day pass is $5, and a weekly pass is $17, with unlimited rides on trains and buses, metro.net. The Metro Red Line sweeps from downtown L.A. through Hollywood. Various companies offer values on train and walking tours, hollywoodchamber.net.

Accommodations

A plethora of websites can help snag a great deal on motels and hotels around town, from losangeles.hotelscheap.org to expedia.com and yelp.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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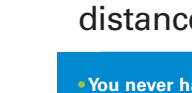

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A taste of Thai in Punta Cana

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

Mixed in with the snorkeling, wind-surfing, deep-sea diving and other waterfront activities typical of beachfront hotels everywhere, the upscale community of Punta Cana Resort & Club in the Dominican Republic offers weekly activities of a more holistic kind.

The week I visited, the scheduled activity was Crystal Bowl Sound Healing. Available to groups of eight to 10, it's an optional spa activity that's actually included in the price of a stay.

Located about a five-minute golf-cart shuttle from this sprawling resort's main lobby is the Asian-themed Six Senses Spa. Headquartered in Bangkok, Six Senses is a collection of spas sprinkled throughout Asia, the Middle East and Europe, but this is the only one in the Americas and it's one of the best in the Dominican Republic.

It's not huge — just eight treatment rooms plus two outside treatment areas — but it is well appointed with Thai-inspired decor and many of the therapists are from Thailand.

The Crystal Bowl Sound Healing session takes place inside the spa's spacious candlelit couples suite.

Thailand-born and trained therapist Noom Paweennuch Soisongsee, who studied with a master sound healer in her homeland, begins the class by distributing mats and asking us to find a comfortable place on the floor.

She explains that sound generated by the chakra-tuned "singing" crystal and silver bowls can have a powerful healing effect as the vibrations resonate through the body.

We begin sitting in a yoga pose with eyes closed as Noom takes us through a series of breathing exercises.

Once relaxed, we watch as she performs a ritual of cleansing and energizing the bowls — three are made of crystal and the fourth is a cherished silver bowl given to her by the "master." While lying in our relaxed poses we listen to her playing the bowls and singing mantras in Sanskrit. I cannot vouch for the healing aspects of

Read more on page 31 ››

SIX SENSES SPA
The sunporch at the Six Senses Spa in the Dominican Republic.

ANNE DIMON
Therapists prepare a chocolate-and-rose-petal bath.

On the web

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SIX SENSES SPA, PUNTA CANA RESORT & CLUB

Left, the couples suite at the Six Senses Spa, Punta Cana Resort & Spa. Right, a therapist conducts a Crystal Bowl Healing Treatment.

>> Continued from page 30

the treatment, but I can say the pure, angelic notes emanating from these bowls seem to have a transporting quality and are profoundly relaxing. Guests can also book the experience on a one-on-one basis.

One of the core purposes of the Six Senses brand is to create experiences in a "sustainable environment" and this makes for a good partnership with Punta Cana Resort & Club. The development is all about sustainability. They even have their own Ecological Foundation maintaining (among other things) an eco reserve, an organic garden that services the resort's restaurants and residential community, and an aviary producing as much as 250 litres of honey in a high-season month.

Ecological director Jack Kheel says the honey bees are local and some of them were "rescued" after they built hives in local residences including the home of designer Oscar de la Renta.

"The honey is 100 per cent pure," says Kheel. It's harvested, filtered, bottled and sold locally through the foundation's own organic market. The spa uses the honey mixed with oatmeal and milk for exfoliating the skin, and mixed with yogurt as a cleanser in the 90-minute Natural Thai Facial, which is $138 US. The honey is also used to sweeten their signature ginger tea.

Other treatments using local products include the 40-minute Natural Sunburn Soother, $50 US, with aloe vera that's picked fresh from the spa's own garden, then hand ground and mixed with lavender to form a soothing balm.

There's a cleansing Tropical Fruit Body Smoother using local papaya, watermelon, pineapple and rice grains.

Several chocolate treatments, like the chocolate-and-rose-petal soak they whipped up for me to try, are made with fresh cacao from Santo Domingo.

Sun, sand, surf and chocolate. How can you beat that?

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and publisher/editor of traveltowellness.com

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L-R: Giuseppe Penone. *Cedro di Versailles*, 2002-2003 © 2008 Giuseppe Penone. Peter Paul Rubens, *The Massacre of the Innocents*. The Thomson Collection © 2009 Art Gallery of Ontario.

A paranormal pilgrimage to the Hoia-Baciu forest

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon
metronews.ca/traveljunkie

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Adrian Patrut, a university chemistry professor, is president of the Romanian Society of Parapsychology. He's been studying occurrences in Transylvania's Hoia-Baciu Forest since the 1970s.

Those intrigued by things that go bump in the night can't help but take notice of Romania's most folkloric region. The very word Transylvania conjures up spooky gothic castles and blood-sucking aristocrats, but there's a lesser-known local attraction to add to your goose bump list.

The Hoia-Baciu Forest (HBF), located a few kilometres outside of the city of Cluj Napoca, is rumoured to be a hot bed of unexplained supernatural activity.

Dubbed the Bermuda Triangle of Transylvania, the forest first gained international attention in 1968, when biologist Alexandru Sift captured a photo of what's said to be a disc-shaped UFO. Since then, UFOs, apparitions, abnormalities on photos, nocturnal lights and other unusual things have been regularly reported in the area.

Ghost hunters, paranormal investigators, parapsychologists — and more recently, tourists — have all taken an interest. Dr. Adrian Patrut, a chemistry professor at the local university, claims that though there are many places around the world with unexplained phenomena, the "Hoia-Baciu Forest is one of the best due to the intensity, variety and complexity of its manifestations."

Patrut is president of the Romanian Society of Parapsychology and since the early '70s he has been studying occurrences in the forest such as unexplained splotches of light and luminescent orbs hovering in the sky. He says that when you spend too much time in the HBF, you can experience symptoms such as anxiety, insomnia, excessive thirst, nausea, vomiting and headaches.

With that kind of build-up, I had to check out the forest for myself.

A 20-minute drive outside of the city finds us on the fringes of the forest. Patrut and I climb up a steep grassy plain to get to the tree line. Once there, we get out our ghost hunting tools: A compass, a still camera, a video camera with infra-red sensors and a Geiger counter to measure sudden rises in radiation. Then we head out into the forest in the hopes of seeing something strange.

The scene looks like something out of a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Spiky branches reach out like bony fingers; trees are gnarled and spooky. Patrut claims that these trees were normal a few years ago. Now they are warped, "A clear sign of an apparition." Supernatural or not, there's something truly creepy about prowling an abandoned forest at night. A few hours of hunting left us with a bunch of mosquito bites but, sadly, no orbs or UFO sightings.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on OLN; juliadimon.com.

Word Travels

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Don't miss Matters of the Heart, Metro's exclusive feature series in the Workology section. There are jobs to be had that focus on falling in love, falling out of love and everything in between; we will be digging up the stories for you.

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Trailblazing dating trends for a decade

Matters of the Heart

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

When it comes to trends in dating, gays lead the way says a well-known member of Toronto's out-and-proud community.

Shaun Proulx, host of the Shaun Proulx Show on 103.9 Proud FM, says while online dating is just now starting to lose its stigma in the straight dating scene, it's been a standard hook-up tool in the gay community for quite some time.

"I certainly feel that I was aware of online for the better part of my 20s and 30s and I'm 40 now," said the popular host of the afternoon talk radio show.

The difference between gay and straight online dating though is that in the gay community it tends to be less structured.

While there are many online dating sites for straight people — Lavalife, Match.com, Plentyoffish, to name a few — it's tough to find a "dating" site that specifically caters to gays and lesbians.

Gays and lesbians have been using dating sites for a long time in their search for love, according to Shaun Proulx of 103.9 Proud FM.

Many of the mainstream dating sites have sections for same-sex romance but Proulx said people in the gay community tend to shy away from dating sites used by the straight community.

People in the gay community looking for love would be more likely to join a special interest group online (whether it be sex-related or not) and meet others with similar interests. If they're looking for love they might indicate that with LTR for longterm relationship, said Proulx.

In an informal poll of his listeners last week, Proulx found that about 85 per cent from the gay community said they found dates online, while the numbers were less for straight listeners.

Daters in the gay community might also be slightly more resourceful than their straight counterparts, which is why they don't need specific "dating" sites to meet a mate online.

One of Proulx's listeners is part of a Facebook group called Gay, Disabled and Happy.

He wrote an email to Proulx with the following message: "I'm a disabled guy myself and I know how hard life can be, sometimes computers are our lifeline. This is a group for all that are gay, physically disabled and able bodied, to make new friends and meet new people."

According to Julia Garro, associate editor of Toronto's gay and lesbian community biweekly Xtra, another online tool for hook-ups in the gay community is craigslist. The lesbian community on the other hand seems to go a slightly different route for mating.

"Most people are looking to get out and meet people," Garro said.

Some of Toronto's most popular nightspots include Woody's and Goodhandy's, both on Church Street, while Slacks, another Church Street haunt, specifically caters to the lesbian community.

For more Matters of the Heart exclusive series check the Workology section Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays or stop by Metronews.ca/work

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Workplace Law
For Daniel Lublin's Workplace Law column for this week, please check out Metronews.ca/workplacelaw.

Family always No. 1, even after losing a job

VANESSA GRECO
for Metro Canada

After three months unemployed, the reality of Sylvain Henry's job loss hit home.

It was nearly Christmas, and his 10-year-old son wanted an Xbox 360. As a laid-off software salesman, Henry couldn't afford the gaming console. For the first time, the father of two from Gatineau Que., couldn't spoil his kids.

"My children still love me, but in moments like that I really feel the pinch," said Henry, a 50-year-old divorcée. "Suddenly Mommy is richer than Daddy."

For many families, household tension starts with a pink slip. In January, as unemployment rate jumped to 7.2 per cent, thousands of jobs were lost across Canada. The trauma of being laid off can lead to several problems — anxiety, loss of pride, depression — unfolding at home.

"Unemployment can be a profound loss," said marriage and family therapist, William Cooke. "Like any other significant event, it can become a good family bonding experience, or move people apart."

Since his termination, Henry has become closer with his children, allaying their fears by goofing around with them.

"Right now, I'm shielding them from my worries," he said. "They have to go to school and live normal lives." In the meantime, Henry continues his job search.

But those who have difficultly managing their emotions might not be as optimistic. The distress of job loss can lead to marital breakdown, domestic violence or harshness with children, said psychologist Marilyn Miller.

For 26 years, Miller has helped couples and families cope with conflict that might arise from job loss.

ACCEPT EMOTIONS

It's typical for the laid off to feel angry, frightened, or anxious. Rather than fight the blues, open up about them.

"By recognizing emotions you diffuse their strength," said Miller, adding although a spouse might also be afraid, they should promote encouragement.

Instead of comments like, "How are we going to pay the bills?" try rallying with your partner by saying, "We will pull together."

CARRY YOUR WEIGHT

Unexpected job loss can make someone feel expendable, but home is the perfect arena to build a sense of self-worth. Keeping up with renovations and chores is a positive way to contribute to your household.

"Do one useful thing a day," said Miller. "Send a resumé, make a phone call, just don't withdraw from the world."

Riding the Recession

LOOK AT THE BIGGER PICTURE

Consider the current economic climate. Instead of turning to self-destructive behaviour — excessive alcohol or food binges — think of your family. Would you rather lose your job or them?

FAKE IT TILL YOU MAKE IT

Pretending you're in good spirits can elevate your mood, said Miller. Don't isolate yourself, get dressed, sound enthusiastic and walk briskly. The family can get involved in a joint hobby or sport.

"You can have time alone," said Miller. "Just tell your family you need to reflect. Don't take things out on them."

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Birthday bash
Kristy Swanson and Lloyd Eisler, who tied the knot this month, threw another party over the weekend — son Magnus' two-year-old birthday bash. Guests gathered Sunday in L.A. for cupcakes and entertainment by The Jumpitz. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Location, location
Cameron Diaz and British model Paul Sculfor are reportedly scouring the English countryside for the perfect place to tie the knot according to femalefirst.co.uk.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Oscar's big blunders

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Like it or not the Oscars are coming on Sunday. The annual event might give Hollywood's biggest stars a chance to wear expensive clothing, but the awards should never be taken seriously as an accurate representation of the best films in any year.

The Academy is a very political beast and the decisions are rarely made for artistic merit. With that in mind, we present a list of Oscar's biggest blunders to help you curb your expectations for Sunday's extravaganza.

NO LOVE FOR HITCHCOCK OR KUBRICK: Stanley Kubrick and Alfred Hitchcock are universally regarded as two of the finest directors of all time, but not according to the Academy. Neither auteur took home a best director statue during their illustrious careers. The only time they were honoured was when Hitchcock got an apologetic career achievement award and Kubrick picked up a special effects statue for 2001. Mel Gibson does have a best director Oscar though. Apparently he's way better than those guys.

CITIZEN KANE IGNORED: Orson Welles' masterful debut is routinely labelled "the greatest film ever made," but it got snubbed on Oscar night in 1941. The Academy decided to honour John Ford's forgettable How Green Was My Valley instead. Welles went on to become a legend, but was never even nominated for a little gold dude again.

SCORSESE'S SNUB STREAK: Martin Scorsese may have finally gotten an Oscar for The Departed, but it was only after all of his best work was ignored. Scorsese had to see Taxi Driver lose best picture to Rocky and lose best director to Robert Redford and Kevin Costner before he finally got any recognition. The Academy is lucky that guy even showed up in 2007.

ART CARNEY'S BEST ACTOR WIN: Art Carney won the 1974 best actor statue for a movie in which he travelled the country with his cat. Now, that decision is offensive enough on its own, but it's even worse when you consider that he beat out Al Pacino for The Godfather Part II, Jack Nicholson for Chinatown, and Dustin Hoffman for Lenny. Those are three of the best actors of their generation giving three of their greatest performances. If he'd beaten even one of them it would have been a travesty. The fact that he beat them all is a tragedy.

FORREST GUMP BEATS PULP FICTION: In 1994 this decision seemed to make sense. Today, Pulp Fiction posters still fill dorm room walls and the only time Forrest Gump comes up is when the title is used as a punchline for a joke about the worst representation of the mentally handicapped onscreen. Smooth move Academy.

Alfred Hitchcock is regarded as one of the finest directors of all time, but he never took home the Oscar for best director.

Slumdog filmmakers help Indian kids

MOVIES They are not your typical movie stars.

Ten-year-old Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail lives in a lean-to made of tarpaulins and blankets. Nine-year-old Rubina Ali's home is a tiny bubble-gum pink shack. A murky open sewer runs down her narrow lane.

Plucked from one of Mumbai's teeming slums to star in the Oscar-nominated hit Slumdog Millionaire, they are India's real slumdog millionaires.

Like the film's hero, an impoverished tea seller who wins money and love on India's version of Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, they now have a chance to escape the grinding poverty they were born into. But as their still-unfolding story shows, things never go as smoothly in real life.

The filmmakers are helping the children, but fast discovering that good intentions and deep pockets don't guarantee success. Meanwhile, sudden fame and relative fortune are sowing resentment within the families and with neighbours, who wonder why their big-eyed boys weren't cast instead.

The Fox Searchlight release has grossed more than $100 million US, but the children's lives seem nearly as fragile as before.

About 65 million Indians, roughly a quarter of the urban population, live in slums. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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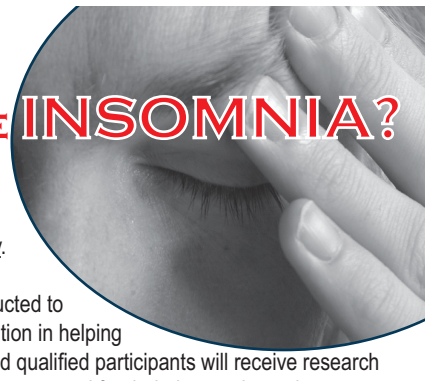

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Kate Mara and Charlie Cox in a scene from Stone of Destiny.

Finding her voice

Kate Marr changes tune for Stone of Destiny

For Kate Mara, the accent was on getting the burr just right to play a young heroine of the 1950s Scottish nationalist movement in Stone of Destiny.

The petite brown-eyed redhead had no trouble looking the part of a Scottish lass, but sounding convincing was crucial to her.

"It was really hard work," the 25-year-old actress said at the Toronto International Film Festival last fall. The film opens here Friday.

"Being in Scotland and being surrounded by a whole Scottish cast (was intimidating), but everyone was so helpful and supportive," she said.

"No one acted like they had any qualms with an American girl playing the lead and an Englishman (Charlie Cox) playing the lead guy."

Written and directed by Charles Martin Smith, who movie fans will remember as Terry in 1973's American Graffiti, the story recalls an important event in modern-day Scottish history.

Based on Ian Hamilton's book, it follows the exploits of the young nationalist who banded with Kay Matheson (Mara) and two university student pals to swipe the 152-kg Stone of Scone from beneath the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey in London and repatriate it to its home in Scotland.

The students wanted the stone — a symbol of Scottish national pride nabbed by the Brits in the 13th century and used since in the crowning of English monarchs — out of England and back in its home country.

Glaswegian Robert Carlyle also stars in the movie as politician John MacCormick, who inspires the students with his fiery speeches.

Retired lawyer Hamilton (age 82 when the movie was being shot in Scotland two years ago), spent a great deal of time on the set, acting as historian, guide and even voice coach.

"I spent so much time with Ian, he was so present and he answered any questions we had," said Mara. "He had Charlie Cox and me over to his house for dinner, and he told us stories. It was amazing."

Mara was enthralled with the tales of the then-25-year-old rebel Hamilton.

"The craziest thing was knowing they were so young when they did this huge thing," she added. "It's hard to imagine being (that age) and doing something that huge and not knowing the consequences. And to be able to spend time with the guy who did it how many years later, that's such a cool thing." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

in theatres

- Stone of Destiny opens in theatres on Friday.

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DVD picks

Saw V

Director: David Hackl

THE HORROR franchise that somehow outlives not only its victims, but also its perpetrators spills its latest buckets of box-office blood. The new instalment continues the savage games by deceased psycho killer Jigsaw (Tobin Bell) and his "apprentice" (Costas Mandylor). An unrated version of the film is available on DVD and Blu-ray, accompanied by featurettes on the various traps the movie sets for victims, plus commentary with director David Hackl and collaborators. The R-rated theatrical cut also comes in a separate DVD edition, while the Blu-ray release has a digital copy for portable video players. A Collector's Edition DVD set comes with a booklet of photos and packaging that features a spinning saw blade.

Mark Wahlberg stars as a narcotics agent in Max Payne.

Max Payne

Director: John Moore

THIS ADAPTATION of the video game stars Mark Wahlberg as a narcotics agent whose thirst for revenge over the deaths of his family and partner hurls him into a seedy underworld of conspiracy and supernatural hallucination. The movie comes in both its theatrical cut and an unrated version, accompanied by commentary with director John Moore. A Special Edition DVD and the Blu-ray release also have a digital copy, plus a making-of segment and an animated graphic novel.

Igor

Director: Tony Leondis

THE ANIMATED comedy has John Cusack providing the voice for the title character, a lowly, hunchbacked lab assistant who dreams of playing a mad scientist himself. The demise of his master gives him a chance to create his own monster for the big mad scientist competition, but the female beastie (Molly Shannon) that he builds turns out to be a pussycat who prefers singing to rampaging. The DVD has deleted footage and a behind-the-scenes featurette, while the Blu-ray disc also has an alternate opening and commentary with director Tony Leondis. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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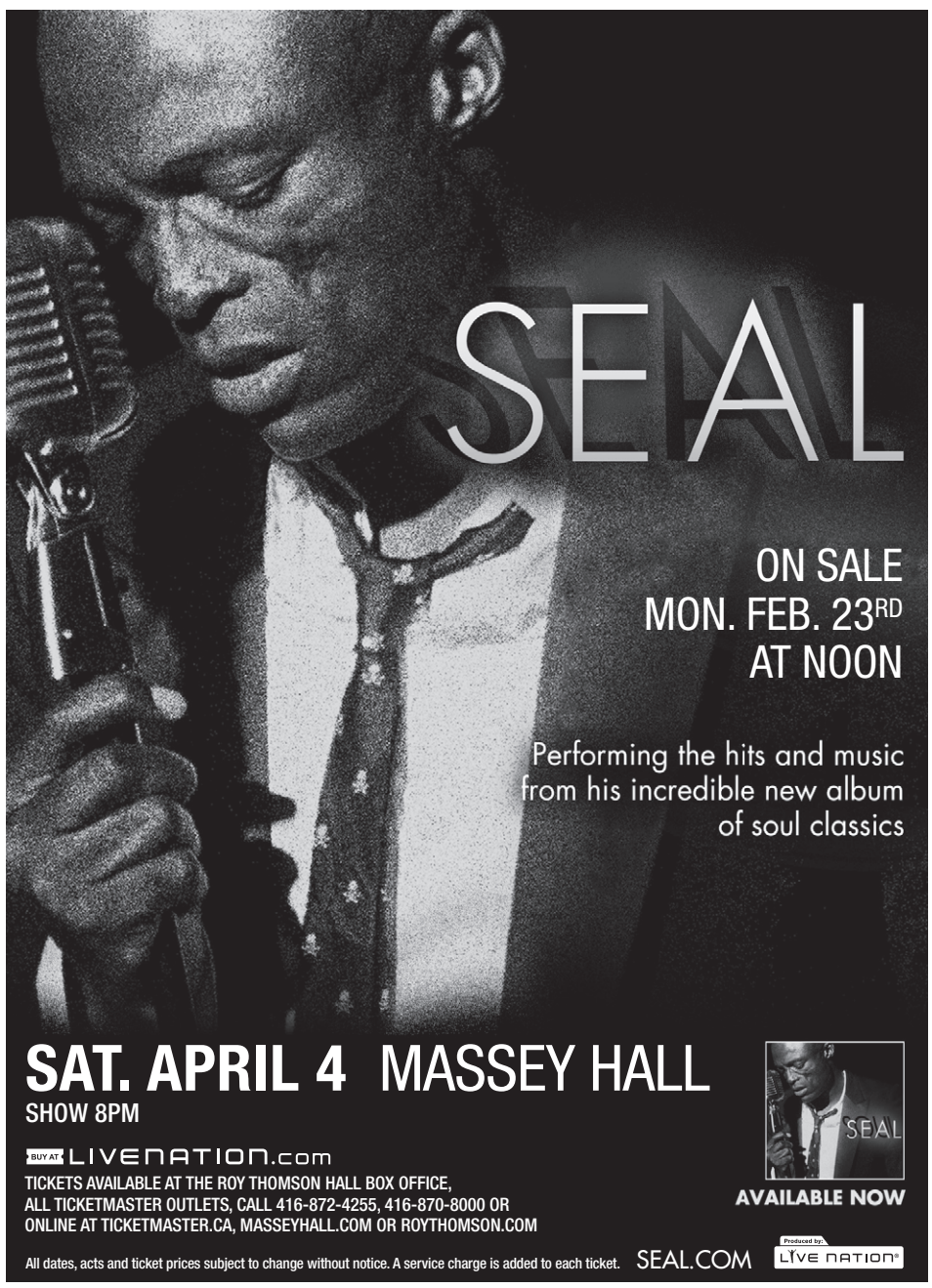

Lucie Idlout plays the Rivoli on Thursday

Iqaluit rocker Lucie Idlout, left, will be in Toronto tomorrow night for a gig at the RIvoli. The singer-songwriter's latest album, Swagger, was released last week. A story in yesterday's Metro listed an incorrect concert date. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Producer Suge Knight injured in fight: Police

MUSIC A beating has left rap producer Marion (Suge) Knight hospitalized in Arizona.

Suge Knight

Police say it happened early Monday at a private party in a hotel in Scottsdale. Two men were arrested, including a man who said he is the business manager for hip-hop singer Akon.

Scottsdale police spokesman Sgt. Mark Clark says Akon was not present when the scuffle occurred.

Clark says officers arrived and saw a man twice punch Knight in the face.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Before he was Pope John Paul II

A Polish survivor of a Nazi concentration camp published a book yesterday recollecting her family's relationship and vacations with Pope John Paul II, including letters from the late pontiff.

Wanda Poltawska, an 87-year-old psychiatrist, said the relationship started in the 1950s when she sought out a priest for spiritual support so she could overcome the trauma she suffered during almost four years at the Ravensbrueck concentration camp.

That priest was Karol Wojtyla, who was elected pope in 1978.

Poltawska's 570-page book, The Beskidy Mountains Recollections, recalls vacations with Wojtyla and includes letters of spiritual guidance he exchanged with her and her family — a correspondence that continued after he became pope.

Poltawska remembers a first joint vacation in 1962, a roughly week-long mountain trek during which the Rev. Wojtyla celebrated Masses on fallen trees or in out-of-the-way cottages.

Wojtyla offered profuse thanks to Poltawska's family in a letter shortly afterward, writing that the trip was "perfectly ... planned and carried out — and I think also led from on high."

Poltawska said the pope invited her family to the Vatican shortly after his election. Her book includes a letter from Oct. 20, 1978, four days after he was elevated to the papacy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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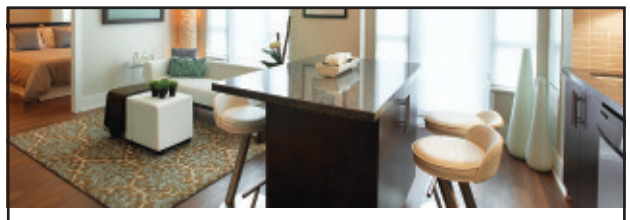

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Jackson sale
Michael Jackson is reportedly selling personal items including his famous jewelled white glove and a robotic head. The pop icon is holding a five-day public auction at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Los Angeles in April. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Designer flops in fashion flashback

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Last night's Project Runway Canada episode proved that if you want to be a clothing designer, it pays to know the fashion world's history.

The designers were put in teams of three and asked to create a couture mini-collection inspired by the design spirit of an iconic fashion brand. The first two groups picked Valentino and Versace while Barrie, Ont., designer Brandon R. Dwyer's group chose Yves Saint Laurent, a French designer considered one of the 20th century's most influential figures in fashion for his gender-bending, innovative outfits.

Dwyer, 23, quickly told his group he had no idea who Laurent was, starting a downward spiral that culminated in show host Iman telling Dwyer that his frilly shirt and deliberately mismatched pants "desecrated Mr. Saint Laurent."

Panel judge and Elle Canada editor-in-chief Rita Silvan chose slightly more diplomatic words.

"If you don't know much about Yves Saint Laurent, how can you be a fashion designer?" Silvan asked.

With that Dwyer was sent home and he still strongly believes the faux pas was the main reason he got cut.

"I think not knowing YSL was a huge factor because Iman had a huge spaz when I mentioned it. I felt there were garments that were a lot weaker than mine," Dwyer said.

Barrie, Ont., designer Brandon R. Dwyer was sent home from Project Runway Canada last night.

Since leaving the show, Dwyer has taken some time to read up on the legendary designer.

"As soon as I got home I checked out all his collections. He's someone who made a huge impact in the fashion industry," Dwyer said.

Trying to design an outfit in the style of a designer he'd never heard of before was definitely challenging for Dwyer. "It was hard to concentrate on the actual garment, so that made the challenge really difficult," he said.

Now that Dwyer is off the show he'll focus on his eponymous clothing line — Brandon R Dwyer — and go back to making the types of clothes he likes design. "The stuff I did for the show is not necessarily anything I'd do in real life. My stuff is very avant-garde," Dwyer said.

when to watch

- Project Runway Canada airs Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. ET on Global.

In brief

DEATH Alfred A. Knopf Jr., son of publishing legends and an influential publisher in his own right, died Saturday. He was 90. Knopf died of medical complications from a fall in mid-January, his wife, Alice, said.

DEATH Legendary big band drummer Louie Bellson, who performed with such greats as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Benny Goodman and Oscar Peterson, has died. He was 84.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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		210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Week the Women Went		Being Erica (N) (DVS)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		13: Fear Is Real "Alone"		Hates Chris	Friends	I Love Money		News (N)
		212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	American Idol		Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
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		-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Life "I Heart Mom" (N)		Law & Order "Rapture"		News (N)
		-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost (HDTV)		Lost "316" (N)		(10:02) Life on Mars		News
		219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Lost (HDTV)		Lost "316" (N)		Law & Order "Rapture"		News (N)
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		296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
		298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two-Half Men	Two/Half Men	Privileged
	news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Business	Politics With Don Newman		CBC News: The National		Animal Takeover (N)		National
		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
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		417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time (N)	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks Outtakes	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks (HDTV)	Drag Race	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
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		556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	How Clean	How Clean	Maxed Out (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
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		575	583	38	CMT	CMT's Greatest "Interviews"		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Three Chords
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		About a Girl	About a Girl	The Guard (HDTV)		Big Love (HDTV) (N)		House
		620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Landscape	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Wingfield	Death at-Opera	Broadway	Law & Order
		601	562	41	SLC	Til Debt-Part	Rich Poor	Chop Shop (N)	Mr. Friday	Real Housewives of OC		Kimora: Fab	Kardashians	ET Canada
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		600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	Property Shop	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Hid Potential	Really Big Flip	Holmes-Homes
		294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*The Hand That Rocks the Cradle* (1992, Suspense)				Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy
		576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*You Got Served* ★★ (2004, Drama) Marques Houston.				Baldwin Hills	Baldwin Hills	Judge Hatchett
		627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Homecoming"		Star Trek: Voyager		Rabbit Fall	Rabbit Fall	Stargate SG-1
		581	566	52	MTV	Play'd	After	MTV News	Cribs	The Real World		The Real World (N)		MTV Live
		618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Ad Persuasion	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
		603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef (Part 1 of 2) Final challenges.		
		261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	SOUL "Twice" (N)		Tuscany		Poltergeist
		621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	Blush: Make-Up Artist		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
		553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Max & Ruby
		115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Star Académie:	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Dommages et intérêts (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
		126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium		Medium		Mediums	Psychic Det.	Mediums
		300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Mistaken* (2008, Suspense) Lana Parrilla.				*Semi-Pro* ★★ (2008, Comedy)			(10:45) *Hot Rod* (2007)	
		305	612	306	PIX	(7:10) *Habitat* ★★ (1997, Science Fiction), Alice Krige				*The Shining* ★★★ (1980, Horror) Jack Nicholson, Shelley Duvall.				

critics' corner

Corner Gas
"Mandelbaum! Mandelbaum!" Oops, sorry, that was "Seinfeld." But "Physical Credit" may put you in mind of the time an elderly fitness trainer went to work on Jerry. In this case, it's Oscar (Eric Peterson), who makes Davis (Lorne Cardinal) his fitness protege. Wanda (Nancy Robertson) is miffed when Hank (Fred Ewanuick) is approved for a credit card she can't get. Brent and Lacey (Brent Butt, Gabrielle Miller) compete over a secret. 11:30 AM on COM

Knight Rider
They say you can't go home again, and that's especially true if by "home" you mean "old bar you used to hang out at when you were younger." Mike (Justin Bruening) decides to visit one of his old haunts, Sonny's Bar, and finds it's changed for the worse. It seems Sonny was killed in a car accident, and his daughter (Alona Tal) is now running the place. Mike offers to help out in order to return it to its former glory, but someone's got other plans. 8 PM on E! NBC

Nestling in New York
Looks like Justin Timberlake and girlfriend Jessica Biel will be full-time residents of New York City soon. The pair, who were spotted apartment-hunting in September, have reportedly settled on a lovely $2.9 million Chelsea duplex, according to Us Weekly. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Star chimp shot dead after attack

ODDITY A 90-kilogram domesticated chimpanzee who once starred in TV commercials for Old Navy and Coca-Cola was shot dead by police after a violent rampage that left a friend of its owner badly mauled.

Sandra Herold, who owned the 15-year-old chimp named Travis, wrestled with the animal after it inexplicably attacked her friend Charla Nash, 55. Nash had gone to Herold's home in Stamford to help her coax the chimp back into the house after he got out, police said. After the animal lunged at Nash when she got out of her car, Herold ran inside to call 911 and returned armed with a butcher knife, stabbing her longtime pet numerous times in an effort to save her friend.

Nash was in critical condition Tuesday after suffering what Stamford Mayor Dannel Malloy called "life-changing, if not life-threatening," injuries to her face and hands.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

AUCTON Two unidentified bidders each shelled out $250,000 during an auction Monday night for the chance to have their own lyrics set to music penned, performed and recorded by superstar Elton John. The auction, organized by B.C. jazz singer Diana Krall, raised more than $2 million for Vancouver General Hospital and blood cancer patients.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Young Hollywood hits fashion shows

The dire state of the economy will not keep Young Hollywood away from New York Fashion Week.

Kristen Bell, Amanda Bynes, Michelle Trachtenberg and the Hilton sisters were among the celebs sitting front row at the Monday afternoon presentation of Jill Stuart's flirty fall collection.

"It's important to keep your head screwed on straight, but I also think it's important to do what you love — and I don't want to give up loving fashion just because maybe I can't buy it right now," said Bell, looking fresh in a floral dress and pointy heels.

Bell, who starred in the 2008 comedy Forgetting Sarah Marshall and the cult TV series Veronica Mars, said she rarely splurges on pricey items.

"I kind of frequently live like I'm in the recession regardless, but that's just because my parents raised me to be very frugal," said Bell, a fan of Jill Stuart's dresses who also sat with Mischa Barton at Miss Sixty.

Actresses Jessica Stroup (the CW's 90210) and Adrianne Palicki (NBC's Friday Night Lights), sporting floaty grey frocks, said clothing exchanges are a good way to stay stylish on a budget.

But they also have their spending weaknesses: Palicki said she splurges on food, while Stroup has a thing for jackets.

"I have a million jackets, and if I see an amazing jacket, I will spend too much money on it usually," she said.

Paris Hilton, meanwhile, had no time to answer questions: The socialite, dressed in a fuchsia party dress, made a late entrance and talked on her cellphone. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETER KRAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, Kim Kardashian, Nicky Hilton, Paris Hilton and singer Kellie Pickler attend the Tracy Reese Fall 2009 fashion show at Bryant Park, in New York, on Monday.

PETER KRAMER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, actors Mischa Barton, Minka Kelly and Kristen Bell attend the Miss Sixty Fall 2009 fashion show at Bryant Park, in New York, on Sunday.

"I kind of frequently live like I'm in the recession regardless, but that's just because my parents raised me to be very frugal."
Actress Kristen Bell

Mirvish lineup

The 2009-2010 Mirvish program will offer seven subscription offerings and two bonus plays. The seven plays are as follows:

- The Harder They Come, a smash hit reggae musical from London, based on the famous Jamaican film starring Jimmy Cliff.
- Stuff Happens, a revival of the critically acclaimed 2008 Studio 180 production of David Hare's play of how the war in Iraq came to be.
- Fiddler on the Roof. Israeli actor Chaim Topol stars as Tevye, the role he created in Norman Jewison's film version.
- Little House on the Prairie, a musical version of the Laura Ingalls Wilder classic from the Guthrie Theater of Minneapolis.
- Young Frankenstein, the Mel Brooks musical based on his classic comedy deconstruction of the famed horror movie.
- Priscilla Queen of the Desert. Drag queens run wild in the Australian outback in this musical version of the cult film.
- Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's beloved show returns to Toronto for another visit.

The two off-subscription specials are as follows:

- Cloud Nine. Alisa Palmer directs a brand new production of Caryl Churchill's iconic play that set the theatre on its ear nearly 30 years ago.
- August: Osage County. The Pulitzer and Tony award winning play about the ultimate dysfunctional family.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No purchase necessary. Limit one entry per person per day. Only 1 grand prize. Approx. retail value $5,000. Must be Canadian resident who is age of majority in province they reside. Excludes Quebec residents. Contest runs from Wednesday, February 11, 2009 through Tuesday, March 10, 2009. Mathematical skill testing question must be answered correctly. Odds of being selected depend on # of eligible entries received. For full set of Contest rules, visit www.slice.ca.

Roseanne rips on Chris Brown

Roseanne Barr has taken to her blog to comment on Chris Brown's alleged assault of girlfriend Rihanna, saying his "lies and excuses" sound "just like every sleazy bastard who ever smacked his wife, kid, mother or girlfriend." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna brainwashing my son: Model's mother

PEOPLE Not only is Madonna, 50, old enough to be boy-toy Jesus Luz's mother, she's old enough to be the 22-year-old's grandmother, wonderwall.com reports.

The New York Post reports that Luz already has a grandma, and she is around 50 years old, too. Meanwhile, Luz's mom, Cristiane Regina da Silva, a hairdresser in Brazil, is apparently 14 years younger than Madonna and believes the pop icon has kidnapped and brainwashed her son.

Luz's whole family (and trail of ex-girlfriends) back in Brazil are apparently upset he spent Christmas in the Maldives with Madge, and the Brazilian media are claiming that her PR people confiscated his cellphone. Apparently the Luz clan, all devout Christians, are worried that Jesus will be lured into Kabbalah. He's already dropped the 40 Graus Modelos modeling agency back in his homeland to join Ford Models in New York, if that's any indication of his burgeoning commitment to Madonna, the website adds.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

No romance, Katy says

RUMOUR Katy Perry has denied that she is seeing Benji Madden, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

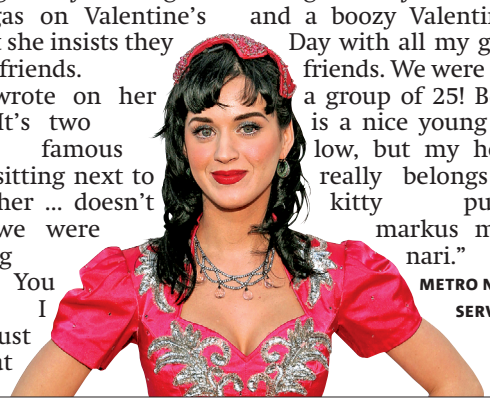
The singer sparked rumours she was dating the Good Charlotte rocker when they were spotted enjoying a cozy evening in Las Vegas on Valentine's Day, but she insists they are just friends.

She wrote on her blog: "It's two pseudo famous people sitting next to each other ... doesn't mean we were bumping uglies. You know I don't just do that with anyone."

The 24-year-old singer explained she was celebrating the romantic day with a group of friends.

Admitting she only has time for her pet cat, she wrote: "I was there celebrating a really fun show and a boozy Valentine's Day with all my good friends. We were like a group of 25! Benji is a nice young fellow, but my heart really belongs to kitty purry/markus molinari."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Motherhood a time-thief: Julia

FAMILY As a full-time stay-at-home mom for the past year, Julia Roberts says life outside the Hollywood spotlight has been anything but uneventful — thanks to her three kids with husband Danny Moder, people.com reports.

"Danny and I talk about, 'What did we do with all the time we must have had?'" she tells Allure in its March issue. "Because you don't recognize it as such, until you have all these little ... time thieves running around your house."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Leave Jessica alone: Jennifer

PEOPLE Jennifer Love Hewitt wishes people would stop debating Jessica Simpson's weight, usmagazine.com reports.

"I wish they would leave her alone," she said.

Her message to Simpson? "Ignore it, live your life and be happy."

Hewitt — who was famously mocked in 2007 when photos surfaced of her curvy figure in a bikini — told Us she is tired of the "unreasonable" Hollywood standards when it comes to weight.

"We're all supposed to look how we're supposed to look. We're made to be different people."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lindsay talks Big Macs and weight rumours

PEOPLE Lindsay Lohan insists she loves Big Macs, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress has sparked concerns for her health after being pictured with an increasingly skinny frame, but has blamed her slim physique on her hectic work schedule.

"I eat. I had my Big Mac yesterday from McDonald's. I eat just as much as I always have," the website quotes her as saying. "I think I've just been working a lot. It's just down to stress and lack of sleep when I travel. I think it's all that stuff that adds up."

The 22-year-old star won't listen to criticism about her weight, adding she doesn't want to be pressured into looking a certain way.

"I'm my own person, and people can say whatever they want. I'm still going to be the person that I am, and I think that's so important for people in Hollywood."

Lohan added she only cares about being happy and has learned to accept herself the way she is: "I think that I don't ever want to pretend to be something that I'm not. I'm not perfect, nobody is perfect."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

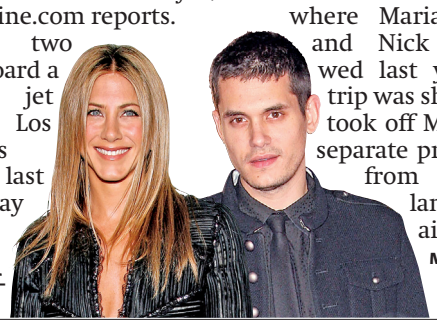
Jen and John's V-Day trip

RELATIONSHIP Jennifer Aniston and John Mayer celebrated Valentine's Day with a trip to the Bahamas, usmagazine.com reports. The vacation was a present from Mayer, x17online.com reports.

The two left aboard a private jet from Los Angeles late last Thursday night — a day after Aniston's 40th birthday — and arrived on the island of Eleuthera the next morning, according to x17.

They stayed in a gated, luxurious home on the north of the island — where Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon wed last year. The trip was short: Both took off Monday in separate private jets from the island's main airport.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Klum shrugs off 'fat' comment

CRITICISM While taking a break from New York Fashion Week, supermodel Heidi Klum addressed the hubbub over designer Wolfgang Joop calling her fat. "It's a life where everyone can say what they want to say and everyone can have their opinion — that is his," she said, according to In Touch. "In this business you have to be fit, but I always try to be a good role model and not too thin."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Josh and Fergie on honeymoon No. 2?

MARRIAGE Less than one month after their tropical getaway to the Maldives, Josh Duhamel and Fergie jetted off to the Mayan Riviera in Mexico for another romantic vacation last weekend, this time to attend the wedding of a friend, people.com reports.

As if on a second honeymoon, a source said the couple enjoyed "lots of outdoor activities, including sunbathing, snorkling, visiting the lowland rainforest and several historic Maya sites."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Weather Network 20 YEARS
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Today 90% Rain and snow 2° / -6°
Thursday 40% Flurries 0° / -9°
Friday 60% Flurries -4° / -9°

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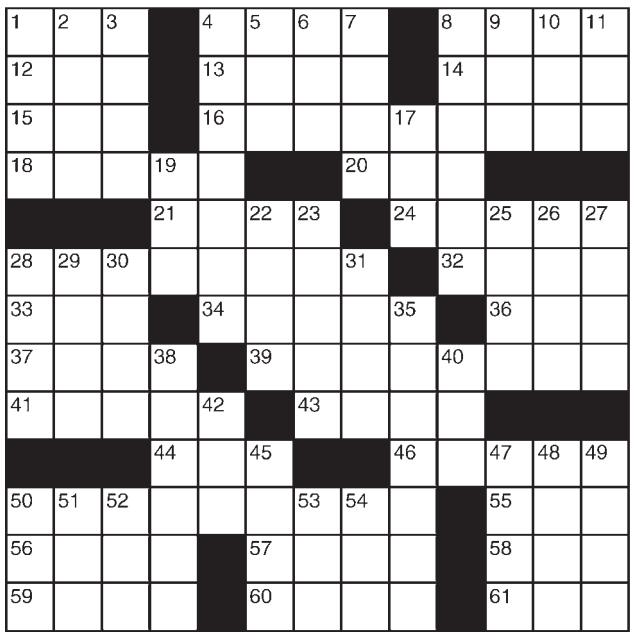

Crossword across

1 Lawyers' org.
4 Bob or Elizabeth
8 Lather
12 Pistol
13 "Metamorphoses" poet
14 Contemporary coin
15 "Guinness Book" suffix
16 Quarantine facility
18 Filch
20 Unruly group
21 Apprehends
24 Redden
28 Jesus' home
32 Birthright barterer
33 "— Got a Secret"
34 Knapsack part
36 Prior night
37 Collections
39 Risked
41 Baghdad resident
43 Make (one's way)
44 Multi-purpose truck
46 Refuge
50 Mideast region
55 Sapporo sash
56 Culture medium
57 — and void
58 Suitable
59 Info
60 With skill
61 Fool

Crossword down

1 Forever, it seems
2 Bankrupt
3 Initial stake
4 Moolah
5 Eggs
6 Claiborne of fashion
7 Dutch cheese
8 Weak
9 No longer chic
10 Illustrations
11 Cattle call
17 Lowe or Morrow
19 Santa —, Calif.
22 "Little Women" woman
23 Milkshake insert
25 Secondhand
26 Rescue
27 Coloured
28 Unless (Latin)
29 State with certainty
30 Catherine — -Jones
31 Visibility hindrance
35 Magnificent array
38 Uncool
40 Vitamin amt.
42 "— Impossible"
45 Italian volcano
47 Parlor piece
48 Wading bird
49 Perches
50 Wander about
51 Past
52 Use a ray-gun
53 Massage
54 Under the weather

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		9		8			5	
						9		
5	1	2	6	7				4
4		8	3			2		
				2				
		3			6	1		7
9				5	7	3	4	6
		5						
	2			3		5		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

G	A	F	F	■	S	T	A	B	■	G	O	D		
O	L	I	O	■	A	R	I	A	■	I	R	E		
T	A	X	R	E	T	U	R	N	■	L	E	E		
■	■	■	K	N	E	E	■	T	U	T	O	R		
S	I	R	E	D	■	■	E	A	S	E	■	■		
H	O	E	D	■	F	A	X	M	O	D	E	M		
E	W	E	■	F	A	R	I	S	■	G	P	A		
M	A	X	E	R	N	S	T	■	B	E	E	N		
■	■	A	L	E	S	■	■	O	L	D	E	N		
G	I	M	M	E	■	A	O	N	E	■	■	■		
A	N	I	■	W	A	X	P	O	E	T	I	C		
T	O	N	■	A	R	E	A	■	P	A	P	A		
E	N	E	■	Y	E	L	L	■	S	P	O	T		

5	9	7	8	3	6	1	2	4
6	3	2	1	4	9	5	8	7
8	4	1	2	5	7	6	3	9
7	8	6	5	2	1	9	4	3
2	1	3	9	6	4	7	5	8
4	5	9	7	8	3	2	6	1
3	7	4	6	1	2	8	9	5
1	6	8	3	9	5	4	7	2
9	2	5	4	7	8	3	1	6

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Fusilli and Meatballs

INGREDIENTS:
1 large onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, minced
796-ml can no-salt-added Italian tomatoes
796-ml can no-salt-added whole tomatoes in purée
1/4 cup (50 ml) chopped fresh basil
1 tbsp (15 ml) fresh oregano or 1 tsp (5 ml) dried
2 slices firm-textured white bread
1 lb (500 g) lean (93%) ground beef
1 large egg
2 tbsp (25 ml) reduced-fat milk (2%)
1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
1/2 tsp (2 ml) black pepper
12 oz (375 g) long fusilli

METHOD:
1. Coat large pot with non-stick cooking spray and set over medium-high heat. Sauté onion and garlic until soft, about 5 minutes. Transfer 2 tbsp (25 ml) onion mixture to large bowl.
2. Process Italian and whole tomatoes in food processor until fairly smooth. Add to pot. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer, stirring often, 30 minutes. Add basil and oregano during the last 15 minutes.
3. Process bread until crumbs form. Add crumbs, beef, egg, milk, salt, and black pepper to onion mixture and mix just until blended. Shape into twenty 1-in. (2.5-cm) meatballs. Coat medium skillet with nonstick cooking spray and set over medium-high heat. Cook meatballs in batches until browned on all sides, about 8 minutes.
4. Drain on paper towels. Add meatballs to sauce. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions. Drain and toss with 1 1/2 cups sauce in large heated serving bowl. Spoon 1 cup (250 ml) sauce over pasta. Serve meatballs and remaining sauce alongside.

SERVES 6

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Someone with a hidden agenda speaks of the future. Don't let your hot-headedness go beyond good taste. A wonderful transformation is coming.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Don't let pride stand in the way of understanding. Difficulties that flare can be resolved with care. Maintain a flexible attitude in groups.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Concentrate on a business that has good chances. Don't take on any risks. Before leaving a difficult situation, take stock of the benefits.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A friend leaves an unhappy marriage. Profits gained through unethical dealings melt away. A nitpicker learns from other people's heated reactions.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Stash your belongings in safe place. You'll be frustrated when you're forced to confront a noisy bore. Show compassion before casting blame.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
While seeking information, you'll have to give directions. Pretending that you don't care won't work. You'll avoid the mess of impulsive deeds.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Encourage a meddler to be more sincere. A private fantasy will become more exhilarating. An interesting man takes pleasure in your company.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Someone's laziness will enrage a female. Teach others to face trouble as it comes up. Someone will love you when they know you better.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Find time to have fun with the people you love. A chat will clear the air. An untrustworthy person is acting on your behalf.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A woman wants more kindness than you can give. Express your feelings with passion. A surprising shift will take place within your family.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A friendship develops for very complicated reasons. Hints of your future power in a relationship will come. Someone returns early from a trip.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Someone's honour will please you. A disappointment affects your chance to succeed. A dramatic spat shouldn't be allowed to get worse.

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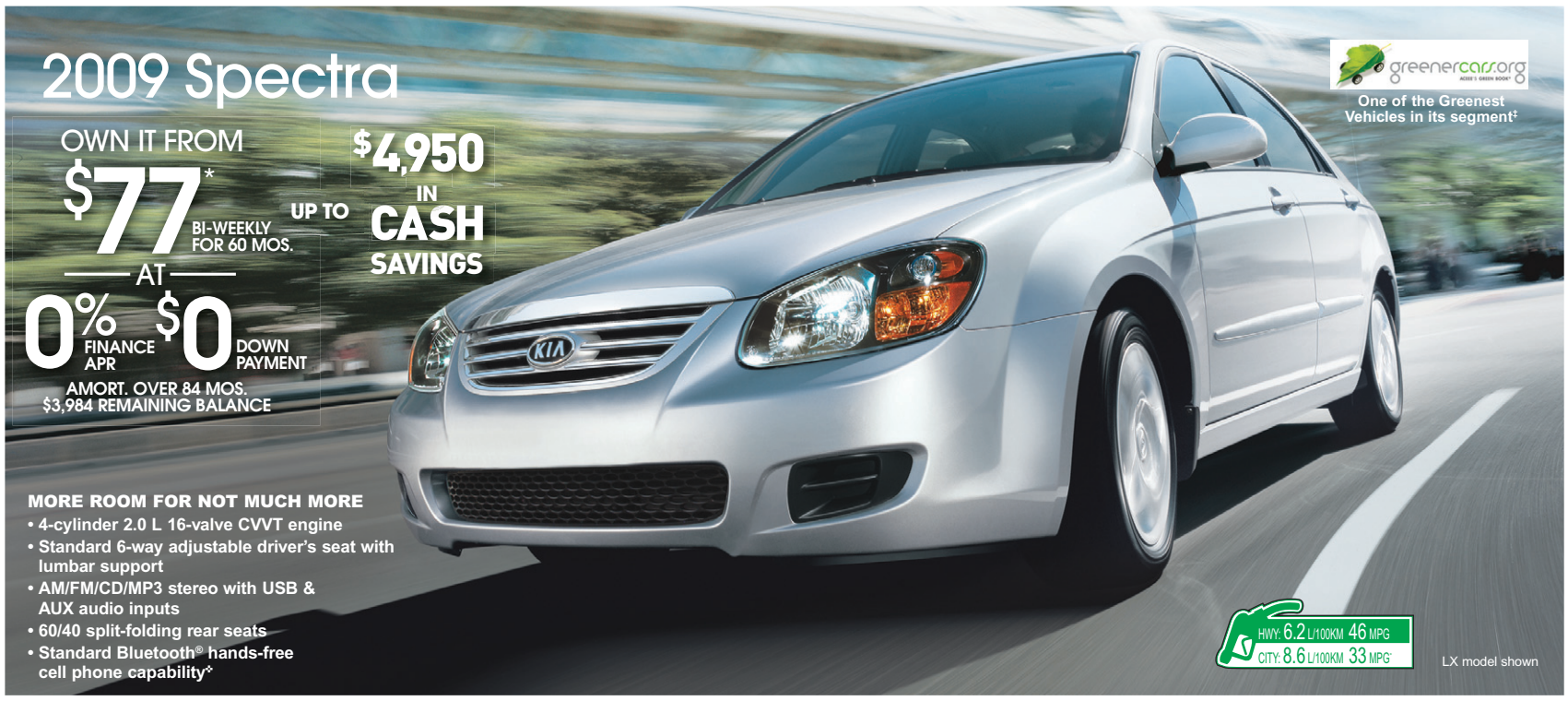

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2009 Rio

EX model shown

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One of the Greenest Vehicles in its segment‡

HWY: 5.9 L/100KM 48 MPG
CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

- 4-cylinder 1.6L CVVT engine
- Standard 6-way adjustable driver's seat
- AM/FM/CD/MP3 stereo with USB & AUX audio inputs
- Bluetooth® hands-free cell phone capability❖

OWN IT FROM
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UP TO
$3,800
IN
CASH SAVINGS

2009 Rondo

★★★★★
Crash Test Rating
NHTSA - Frontal impacts††

EX model shown

greenercars.org
One of the Greenest Vehicles in its segment‡

HWY: 7.5 L/100KM 38 MPG
CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG

- 4-cylinder 2.4L CVVT, or available 2.7L CVVT V6 engine
- Automatic Steptronic transmission
- Available 7-seater
- Standard six airbags

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CASH PURCHASE PRICE
UP TO
$3,300
IN
CASH SAVINGS

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*Bi-weekly payment for 2009 Spectra LX MT (ST5419) is $77 with an APR of 0% for 60 months, amortized over an 84-month period. Estimated remaining principal balance of $3,984 plus applicable taxes due at end of 60-month period. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455 excluded. ◆Cash purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519) is $9,995/$16,995 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$3,000 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$19,995. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. §"Get an instant cash rebate" on all 2009 models. Offer varies by vehicle. See your local participating Kia dealership for full details. ❖0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for a term of up to 36 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Term varies by model. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2009 Spectra LX is 6.2 L (46 MPG)/8.6 L (33 MPG); 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Spectra/Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. ^Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program, see dealer for details. ✣Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ✣Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 models.The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends March 2, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario/Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.